

LIFE AND  
DEATH: THE FINAL  
DAYS OF NANCY B.

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Winner Of  
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# Macleans

CANADIAN WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE FEBRUARY 24, 1992 VOL. 155 NO. 8

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## THE WINTER GAMES

### CANADA'S GOLDEN GIRL

On a mountain called Iron Buck, Calgary's Karolin Lee-Gartner skied to Olympic glory last week, winning the women's downhill at the 1992 Winter Games in the French Alps. Her stunning victory saved Canadians from disappointment over several night-bury-burials in the Games' first week, and left Canada's hockey team with a tough act to follow in its own quest for gold.

— 36

## SPECIAL REPORT

### TO LIVE OR DIE

Like the paralyzed woman known simply as Nancy B., many North Americans with hopeless medical conditions are demanding the legal right to determine how and when they will die. The result may be a move by doctors and legislators to accept voluntary euthanasia.

— 46



## CANADA

### THE 'LITTLE GUY'S' TRIP

In his meetings with President George Bush and other high-level U.S. officials last week, Liberal Leader Jean Charest tried hard to portray himself as a future prime minister—with some success. Liberal party insiders clearly hoped that the Canadian public was also paying attention.

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# Death On Track

Last week Maclean's Researcher Stephen Beaton was aboard a Montreal-to-Toronto Via Rail train that collided with a truck at a level crossing, killing four passengers. Beaton's account:

**T**he 12:15 express to Toronto was on schedule. I was looking forward to the 4½-hour trip.

The snowstorm raging outside was a pretty distraction as the train moved onto the countryside and picked up speed. I started to eat a sandwich. Then, there was a squeaking pit, as if an explosion had hit the front of the train. I was driven back into my seat, then forward. A second job slammed the train sideways, propelling me onto an empty seat. The window behind me had shattered and there was a blast of snow and glass into the car. The second job dented the carriage in front—the first-class car in which four people were fatally injured—and our car was swaying back and forth at an alarming rate. The screams of passengers were all but drowned out by the screech of metal on metal as the train continued to career down the track. The one-kilometre collision-ride must have lasted only 20 seconds, but it seemed like an hour. I was terrified.

Traumatized and some passengers tried to restore order and abandoned passengers into the coach farthest from the engine—the only car that had escaped structural damage.

Only 19 of the 98 passengers had been in the first coach, which had suffered the greatest damage. It was not until we spoke to the media that most of us were able to piece together the horrific details. It was eerie how clear you could be to something and how far away you could feel.

After the passengers were taken to hospital for a medical assessment, Via provided a bus to complete the trip. On the 400 highway, a blow-out on the near right wheel was the final trigger of the day. It was 11:30 at night. The driver dived it was slow to continue. I would happily have walked the 30 km to my house.

*Kevin Dayle*



Beaton: "It was eerie how clear you could be to something and how far away you could feel."

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**Special Reports:** Murray (Special Reports), Department

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## LETTERS

### BREAKING THE BANK

**T**hank you, Mackenzie, for such an informative and useful article about the current recession and the two opposing rescue plans to help kick-start the Canadian economy ("How to bank bailouts," *Cover*, Feb. 10). However, I must say that I was shocked by Bank of Montreal chairman Matthew Barrett. His remarks that called on the federal government to do more to help the unemployed was both callous and shallow. The banks in Canada made more than \$1 billion in profits last year, while the rest of the country suffered. Canada needs strong leaders from the business community, not just pretenses.

Daniel Donaghy  
Ottawa



Barrett: a 'callous and shallow' remark

While I agree in large part with your editorial, "Flying without a map," I disagree with your complaint that low interest rates will hurt retired people. Most retirees survive on fixed-income pensions, as well as partially indexed Canada Pension and old-age security. Timing inflation will benefit the majority of retirees more than lower interest rates will harm them.

Garry Downe,  
Campbell River, B.C.

Not knowing whether Brian Mulroney or Finance Minister Donald Marshall belongs to Mackenzie, I mailed my copy to the Prime Minister's Office, having placed an address adjacent to the article entitled "A decade of devastation." I wonder if either of them will take the time to read, digest and file it?

Bruce Selwyn,  
Montreal, Que.

### THAT OLD DEVIL LIBEL

**H**ow very ordinary how International Business Inc. president William L'Etourneau looks ("Libel still haunts us," *Opening States*, Feb. 10). He looks, no peckford. But there is nothing benign in L'Etourneau's letter to Macdonald publishing virtually nothing but editorials and anti-unionist propaganda about the Rowell report finally published. To suggest it was merely outdoing strategy is ludicrous. Until our libel laws are radically reformed, such extortion tactics will continue to cripple Canadian journalism.

Jeffrey Bernard  
Scarborough, Ont.

### NO PAIN, NO GAIN

**I** find it ironic that your reporter chose to quote hockey players from the Toronto Maple Leafs about the severity of their coach Dave Keefe's conditioning drills ("The

Spartan contest Dave Keefe could not fight out the purpose of the drills, maybe he should have taken a look at the Olympic team's record against Canada's National Hockey League teams this year: they were undefeated against all of them, except the Edmonton Oilers. That is a record the Leafs have not been able to lay claim to as yet.

Andrew Mackay  
Kingston, Ont.

In "Next stop, Barcelona," I was surprised to read that Canadian teams in sports like volleyball have traditionally fared poorly at the Olympics and are now preparing for still qualifying tournaments. The Canadian men's volleyball team, for one, placed fourth at the Los Angeles Olympics, which I do not see as a poor finish. Also, the team has already qualified for the Barcelona Games after defeating Mexico last summer. A little research would have saved some Canadian athletes the frustration they undoubtedly felt when reading the article. Congratulations, *The Canadian*. See you in Barcelona.

John Berlin  
Calgary

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## PASSAGES

**DIED:** Author Alex Haley, 70, of cardiac arrest, in a Seattle hospital. A former coast guard cook, Haley started writing professionally in 1959. He was best known for *Roots*, a novel about two centuries of the black experience in America. *Roots*, a 1986 biography of the controversial black activist who was assassinated in 1965, has sold more than six million copies. But it was *Roots*, a miniseries about the author's African ancestors, that made Haley one of the most popular authors in the world. In 1977, it won a Pulitzer Prize and was named one of the most highly rated miniseries in television history, starring LeVar Burton and Cicely Tyson. *Roots* has been reprinted in 27 languages.



**DIED:** A former Canadian deputy commander-in-chief of NORAD, Charles Roy Stenson, 67, of a coronary issue in Colorado Springs. Stenson was the air marshal in command on Oct. 6, 1969, when NORAD's early-warning system indicated that the Soviet Union had launched a nuclear attack against the United States. Stenson undertook a 20-minute verification check which showed that the alarm was false, the warning system's radar beams had echoed off the moon.

**DIED:** Veteran journalist and former federal government spokesman Ben Ward, 63, after a lengthy battle with cancer, at a hospital in Ottawa. A native of Timmins, Ont., Ward worked for The Canadian Press from 1957 to 1966, when he became director of information for the Canadian Trans-

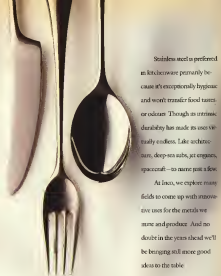
port Commission, then headed by Jack Pickersgill. Said Pickersgill, a former Liberal cabinet minister: "He was a very honest reporter. That's why I liked him." Ward was also director of information for the finance department from 1977 to 1990.

**SENTENCED:** Former lawyer Julius Melancon, 44, to nine years in prison, for defrauding banks and investors of as much as \$30 million, by a court in London, Ont. Melancon was also fined \$20 million. He will be eligible for parole in 18 months.

**DECLARED SANE:** Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, 31, who had pleaded guilty to murdering, dismembering and to some extent cannibalizing 15 boys and young men by a court in Milwaukee. Dahmer will serve a life sentence.

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## LETTERS

### 'A WASTE OF SPACE'

**B**arbara Ansel's Jan. 27 column, "Public remarks on a private matter," was a waste of space, paper and time. Why she felt it necessary to defend her private life in a most public way is quite beyond me. Your readers have a claim to be better informed about money and events shaping our country and our world. We do not need Maclean's to discover whom Ansel has or has not dated. Barbara, go back to adding to your 3,542 political columns and leave the gossip to the *National Enquirer*.  
Alexandre Laro,  
Kingston, Ont.

I see that Barbara Ansel is discouraged by criticism of her personal life. It shows that her critics do not have legitimate reasons for her questions and ideas. Take heart, Barbara. You have been right all along. Secularists do not work. State ownership is wrong. Your column is a useful guide to the areas of material produced by Canadian media populists. Keep it.  
John Barry,  
Westbank, B.C.

### FLIRTING WITH DISASTER

**F**or those of us who remember how the *Sensational World* War could have been avoided if, in 1938, Adolf Hitler had been stopped instead of given the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, it is sad to see attempts to rely on the art to avoid Saddam Hussein from Kuwait ("Bidding for a war," *World*, Jan. 27). Perhaps Jean Edward Smith, a genuinely intelligent political commentator, would like to explain what Hussein intended to do with his nuclear capability and one of the largest and best-equipped armies in the world. Perhaps, like Hitler, he only wanted to "protect" Iraq nationals and neighboring Arab countries.  
Stephen F. Mann,  
Cambridge, Ont.

### HIP-HOPPING MAD

**W**hile I enjoyed your coverage of pop music in Canada ("Rock on a roll," *Cover*, Jan. 27), I do have one complaint: your failure to mention Canadian hip-hop artists and, in particular, the Toronto-based Down Warriors. The Down Warriors are rap revolutionaries, internationally renowned for their innovative musical techniques. At home, however, they were little noticed until they returned from England with a top single hit. Not that Canada has no taste in music, but it just seems that the pop media's concentration of artists like Bryan Adams ignores too much attention at the expense of more musically daring acts.

Edwin Anderson,  
Burlington, Ont.

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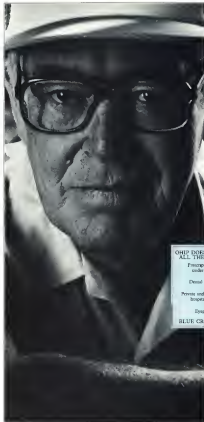
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# OPENING NOTES

Albert Gore praises Canada, Sheila Copps riles Ontario Liberals, and Alan Wells strikes a blow for brotherhood

## SITTING DUCKS

Sometime in the next 18 months, Brian Mulroney will likely roll a federal election. And as the deadline approaches, names older and new face who might declare their candidacy are gathering steam. Mulroney's preferred list of the people who are keeping the name rolls busy, former Ottawa mayor Marion Sewer confirmed that he is considering running for the seat in the Ontario Centre riding. Bob Brown "is thinking about it." But James Coates, former principal secretary to Pierre Trudeau, responded with a categorical "No, no, no" speculation that he may run for the Liberals in Toronto's



Whelan: a hot in the ring

Spadina riding, where he lost in a 1984 attempt. Said Coates: "There are more picks in Spadina than there are people." He added: "I was almost completely inactive politically." Other tentative faces to watch include Markham mayor Alvin Harper and former Liberal defence minister Bernard Doran. But the most colorful prospective candidate is undoubtedly Eugene Whelan, the gregarious former minister of agriculture under Pierre Trudeau, who says that at 67 he is thinking about a comeback. He added that he does not know if he will try for the Ontario riding of Leaskville/Goderich, now Oranmore, or his old riding of Windsor-Essex. But he expressed confidence in his enduring popularity. Declared Whelan: "I haven't made up my mind one way or the other. But whenever I run I think I can beat the sitting candidate no matter who it is."

## A LIBERAL CONFRONTATION

Ontario Liberal MP Sheila Copps appears to have been in a verbal sparring session with Ontario Liberal leadership convention in Hamilton, her home town. She executed a vocal and effective campaign in support of the anti-franchise, Murray Edmister, who finished second to Lyn McLeod at a vote decided by only one vote out of the 2,326 cast. Liberal sources say that Copps's tactics infuriated some delegates. One observer claimed that on Feb. 7, the day before the vote, Copps privately threatened to denounce Michael Knaulder from her own riding association if he failed to lose up behind Edmister.

McLeod: victor



Copps: a 'brevetier'?

Knaulder, who had originally supported Clark's home candidate Charles Berry, said his elimination, judged unfair to McLeod's camp, had decided to change his details of her campaign, which she Liberal sources characterized as a "brevetiering." And Knaulder said Macdonald's that he and Copps have since resolved their differences. But Copps denied that the incident even took place. She added: "I was working the floor like everybody else."



Canadian Embassy: under siege

## Hard times in Haiti

When 29 Haitians occupied Canada's embassy in Paris-France last November, Ambassador Bernard Desautel and a staff of five moved to his luxurious mansion on a hillside overlooking the city. But despite the palatial surroundings, carrying on official duties in proving difficult indeed. A security force of five Canadian military police and two RCMP officers also shared the residence. Although the standoff at the embassy ended Dec. 34, Desautel and his staff have been unable to return there because of threats to their lives. Three of the embassy's original staff returned to Canada last fall, but the 13 men and women who remain are usually without water or electricity and sleep two to a room. Declared Desautel: "The pool is not working, the electricity is not working, you have to get in line in the morning to take a bath." Self, daily calls. The ambassador recently spent his entire Saturday cooking the street market to feed hungry children to provide dinner for 12 officials' guests. Desautel says that he is making the best of it. "I love camping," he said. "It's great."

## Brotherhood and sisters

Alan Wells, a younger brother of Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, says he plans to resign from the Rotary Club in Prince George, B.C., because of its recent decision to admit women. But Wells, 52, an insurance underwriter who had been a member since 1961, denies that he is a male chauvinist. "I have no problem with women," he told Macdonald's. "But I don't want to join a society, and I don't think they should join an all-male club." Added Wells, saying that he has received a lot of support. "I've lost count of how many women have said to me, 'You're 100-percent right.'"

## TURBULENCE IN THE AIR

The flight that spirited politicians and journalists from Ottawa to Vancouver for the final weekend of the annual conference was, according to some passengers, a voyage of the damned. That atmosphere in the crowded business-class section was so stifling that Shirley Carr, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, was struck by the airline's four-hour flight. The in-flight movie, *Other Peoples' Money*, about greed and corruption, did little to alleviate the gloom. However, Dorothy Schibbe and most of the constitutional committee that she chairs flew first-class. When NDP member Lorne Nystrom was asked what he was doing up front, he replied: "Well, you know, we NDP like to bring everybody up to the same level."

## Homage to the home team

The economy is ailing, but the biggest news story this year for many Vancouver residents was the Redmen's Super Bowl victory. And it is fitting that the celebrated football trophy that has gone to Washington three times in the past decade should be permanently displayed by one of the city's most enthusiastic Redmen fans, Duke Zolbert, a close friend of Redmen owner Jack Kent Cooke, near a push downtown restaurant called Duke Zolbert's, which he calls it "the home of the Redmen." Indeed, Zolbert was so sure that his favorite team would win this year that he spent \$2,700 building a new trophy case before the game on Jan. 30. Other cities hold the Redmen's Super Bowl trophies from 1952 and 1958, as well as a collection of the team's memorabilia. Zolbert, who says that at the restaurant's 42-year history he has no



Zolbert: a fan of food and football

retained such celebrity clients as Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and George Bush, accompanied Cooke on his chartered 747 to Minneapolis to witness the big win. Says Zolbert: "In this city, the Redmen are more important than the White House."

## AS GOOD AS GOLD

Trading national input pits as a popular pastime at the Olympic Games in Albertville, France, but Macdonald's correspondent Andrew Phillips discovered another use for the tiny collectibles. When Phillips missed a shuttle bus for the 20-minute trip through the mountains that would have taken him to La Plagne, site of the bobbed and luge races, a dispatcher accompanied another 60-seat bus that took Phillips, the bus passenger, to his destination. The fare for the extraordinary trip: a Skisnowman train pie that Phillips was wearing on his lapel.

## LONG-DISTANCE HOUSE CALL

Some American politicians oppose sending the Canadian-style medicine—an election-year issue—arguing that it is a waste of resources. The U.S. government-enterprise system, but Democratic Senator Albert Gore has nothing but praise for Canadian medical expertise. After Gore's son, Albert, then an, suffered nerve damage to his right arm in a 1989 car accident, he flew the boy to Toronto to see neurosurgeon Alan Hudson of The Toronto Hospital. And soon after, Hudson travelled to New Orleans to perform a three-hour operation with a top U.S. surgeon that successfully restored the use of the boy's arm. Said Hudson: "I pushed him to have the surgery in New Orleans for political reasons. After all, I wouldn't be thrilled if Mulroney went south for an operation." Gore added that the two surgeons who operated on his son are "broad and shoulders above everyone in the field."



Gore getting the best medical care



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## COLUMN



# The communist threat in Ontario's NDP

BY BARBARA AMIEL

Three or four times a year, groups of disappointed people gather by invitation only, to discuss world events. The size of these conferences is usually wildly appropriate, targeting the less committed to be on their butts in the sun or wonder about mountains polluting the month. I attended the World Economic Forum (a lowly arena person), which took place in the Swiss town of Davos.

Late most of the sessions at Davos this year, that there was the same cold Western business please come to the dinner arena of the world and make them work? This plan was made elegantly by South Africa's President F. W. de Klerk, who pointed out that it would be ironic if the countries that were going to meet in us during the worst days of apartheid would not do the same now that we are a multiparty democracy. That name Nelson Mandela, who was courteous and grew, but a bit past. Diego did say that there was a role for private enterprise in South Africa, but the old Marxist-Leninist language peppered his speech—all that someone about "the liberation of women" and "the reasonable distribution of wealth."

Furthermore, given the social debacle of the past decades, anyone who has the gall to say that there is a "role" for private enterprise doesn't exactly inspire investor confidence. The next session introduced the new leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which has replaced the old U.S.S.R. The session was brilliantly chaired by Henry Kissinger, who announced that each speaker would have precisely six minutes. "At five minutes, and eight will come on," explained Kissinger, "at five minutes and a half and a half and an immense trip door will open open behind you!" Then, looking extremely at the leaders of seven former Soviet republics, some of them having come to power through the cold Politburo, he instructed: "This is a method of debate with which most of you will have become familiar."

The new CIS leaders wanted capitalism. Back and added the next in promises: the

there was the bloodiest policies of the UN system. The case was Margaret Thatcher's reform of labor laws—and today, not even the British Labour Party would reverse her. Ontario, on the other hand, is intent on putting in place precisely the labor conditions that pleases England to its economic laws. But if legislation would get the Ontario Labor Relations Board the power to force a company to unemploy, even when less than 50 per cent of the workers supported that move. In the event of a strike, workers who disappointed of the strike would not be allowed to work and managers would not be allowed to hire replacement workers.

Collective contracts would follow a businessman so that the free market would become an anachronism. What that means is if I run a restaurant chain and decided the cost of cleaning from supplier X was too high because that supplier had negotiated a high wage settlement, it would do me no good to go to supplier Y. Why not? Because under Rae's proposed labor laws, the businessman would be compelled to pay supplier Y the same rate as supplier X.

One prominent Canadian banker I spoke to in Davos estimated that the Ontario NDP, Ontario, has lost 75,000 jobs. Some of those, he acknowledged, had been due to a recession that was not caused by the NDP, but many job losses were simply due to businesses moving out of the province or moving close to it. The Germans and Japanese have firms, including plants in Ontario, and what they have is working from running. Meanwhile, the banker himself spoke proudly of getting the best access ever to Rae. "He's a great guy," he said, "and we're able to tell him what's wrong."

That struck me as a bit odd. Getting Rae out of his troubles so he can live to see another day isn't just help to Canada. "We can't let him down," replied the banker, "because it will take Ontario years and years after Rae to recover." But said the voters regret him and his party for that right reason—the reason that most of the world understands, namely, that socialism is the problem, not the solution—Canadians will simply go on stabbing themselves in the gut.

The only solution for Canada is to let Rae and Ontario join Albania as the last bastion of economic centralism. Marx always claimed that the economic basis of a country determined its superstructure. That is why he was so scathing about bourgeois law, which to him was simply an outgrowth of capitalism.

This was the case with Marx with which I always agreed. The lawbreaker of capitalism is the product of a capitalist system. If Rae stays in power and implements his economic programs, I'll make a bet that the bourgeois laws of Ontario—eroded as they already are by the effects of feminism and left-wing special-interest groups—will increasingly be replaced by the counter structures of communism.

The only way in which Ontario will differ from the old Soviet Union (or the present Albania) is in the degree of cruelty and repression. Canadians are more. But how nice they will stay under such control of Rae is another matter.

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# THE 'LITTLE GUY'S' TRIP

**JEAN CHRETIEN TRIES TO POLISH HIS IMAGE WITH A HIGH-PROFILE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES**

**T**he 35-minute private meeting between President George Bush and Liberal Leader Jean Chretien was unveiled strictly as a get-acquainted session. As Bush and Chretien settled down on couches in the White House Oval Office late last week, they traded anecdotes about mutual acquaintances and jokes about their political futures. Said Chretien, referring to Bush's candidacy in the Feb. 18 presidential primary in New Hampshire: "I have lots of relatives living there, and they will help if you want." Bush responded that he hoped "that will not be necessary" but along with the smiles and pleasantries, the two men also discussed the sometimes rocky relationship between their countries. "I told him that, like most Canadians, I think Americans are our best friends," Chretien told *Maclean's* later. "That whole friendship is friendly, business is business—and so are things used to change."

Chretien delivered that message Monday, and others, during his five-day U.S. visit. In separate sessions with Bush, Senate majority leader George Mitchell and a series of high-level government officials, the Liberal leader cited a series of disagreements between the two countries over the terms of the three-year-old Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, along with polls showing growing Canadian dissatisfaction with Bush. His goal, he said, was to make clear to the Americans that if the Liberals win the next federal election, "we will push to reopen that deal, because that is what Canadians want." But Chretien's trip also ap-

peared to have a more subtle purpose: to establish him at home as a leader who is comfortable dealing in international affairs.

By that standard, the trip was clearly a success. In fact, Chretien's public and private comment throughout the visit to New York City and Washington underscored the extent to which he has changed since capturing the Liberal leadership in June, 1990. Since then, some party insiders have criticized him for appearing stiff and mechanical as public and uncertain of what position to take on issues. He has also been dogged by rumors that he is ill with an unspecified disease—a fact that he vigorously denies. Even his spoken English—which in earlier years was described as charmingly fractured—seemed to have become more heavily accented, and sometimes incomprehensible.

These factors have influenced the electoral strategies of both the Liberals and Conservatives. Although the Liberals have been leading in the polls far well over a year, some party organizers acknowledge privately that much of their support is soft. Surveys also suggest that an increasingly high proportion of respondents—often more than a third—say undecided or do not support any of the existing party leaders.

A similar mood of discontent surfaced recently at the Liberal party. Last year, some Liberals in Ottawa privately speculated that Chretien—who had undergone surgery in February to remove a non-cancerous mole from his right leg—might lose patience to step down before the next election because of his health, as well as suggestions that he had performed poorly as leader. Among those rumored as potential successors were his former leadership contenders Bob Martin, P. and Silvano Cuspo, former Ontario premier David Peterson and Evan Fother, who serves as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations based in January. But those rumors subsided when Chretien returned to take his oath.

Still, Chretien faces numerous external challenges. Indeed, according to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's last year of his first political term as the next federal election campaign—which is expected in 1993—will be to portray Chretien as being "not disgraced enough" to represent Canada. In a *Maclean's* interview



published earlier this year, Mulroney himself asked sarcastically: "Is Jean Chretien the man you want to represent you internationally?"

But few of those problems were in evidence during Chretien's meetings last week. In private sessions with small groups, Chretien speaks comfortably, and often eloquently, in both French and English. In public, his traditional problems with English syntax are compounded by the fact that he is partially deaf. To help him speak English better in public, he has been taking weekly private lessons.

During a 90-minute session hosted by Washington's Center for Canadian Studies, Chretien spoke easily and without notes to an audience of 100 students and lawmakers from the U.S. state government. Conceding a political-stance

trial session, Chretien was to court during the five days of testimony earlier this month a verdict is expected in March. By common but unspoken consent between Chretien and the media, he has not been asked to comment on the case. But, says one longtime friend, "he is like any father would be—the case is eating him up inside."

In addition, Chretien acknowledges that it took him a long time to recover from the wave of viral that greeted him in Quebec in the summer of 1990 after the failure of the Meech Lake constitution of second, which Quebecers thought Chretien opposed. Former Liberal MP Gilles Rochefort, who quit to join the pro-sovereignty Bloc Quebecois, publicly labeled Chretien "Quebec's Judas Iscariot," and some of the Liberal leader's former friends snubbed him. Chretien, accustomed to being one of the most popular political figures in Ottawa, found it especially painful to be rejected in his home province. "It was easy to see people you have known for a long time turning against you," he told *Maclean's*. But he now insists that his demons as Quebecer are improving. Declared Chretien: "I don't see things are like they used to be, but they are getting a lot better." Indeed, a Gallup poll published last month showed the Liberal's popular standing in that province at 35 per cent, compared with 32 per cent for the Bloc Quebecois, 15 per cent for the Conservatives and 12 per cent for the New Democratic Party.

**Chretien and Bush: 'some things need to change'**

professor. "We were concerned that his English might be hard to understand." But the only uncertain moment came when Chretien, during a discussion about party costs, declared: "I understand this because I have to eat my house like everyone else." That error in pronunciation, the official added, "was the only time people were at all confused. Overall, he just charmed them."

The improvement in Chretien's performance has occurred despite several jarring personal setbacks. The most significant was a trial in Montreal involving 22-year-old, Michel, who is accused of sexual assault, sodomy and illegal confinement in a case involving a Mon-

At the same time, Chretien bristles at suggestions that his manner has changed since his return to politics. "People talk about cost cutting from scripts, as though it is something I never used to do," he says. "But it is something I always did. When you're a finance minister, as you do make up a budget at the top of your head." In fact, he adds, the changes his public manner are the inevitable result of assuming the role of leader. Declared Chretien: "I have been a servant of other people for all of my political life. Suddenly, that is now different, and I had to change."

In fact, even some of Chretien's supporters acknowledge that he has not changed at all in several respects. He is a politician for his in-

## CHANGING THE RULES

The federal government declined to comment on the upcoming constitutional reform. Among other things, its report called for federal election campaigns to be limited to 47 days, instead of the current average of 50; a ceiling of \$1,900 on advertising by third-party groups; the closure of as many as eight news for private, and staggered voting hours so that Canadians in all time zones would learn election outcomes simultaneously.

## AN OATHED RESIGNATION

Ontario Energy Minister William Ferguson became the sixth minister in Bob Rae's 17-month-old NDP government to leave the cabinet. Ferguson said that he took the action to defend himself against what he called "false allegations" stemming from a police investigation into an alleged scandal at a reform school in Cambridge. Oat Ferguson, 36, who worked at the Greenwood School for Girls as a summer student in 1973, is among 130 former staff members who police plan to interview regarding allegations of abuse made by 28 former students. A former inmate of the school said last week that, at 16, he had a "crush" on Ferguson and that they had sex.

## RAIL TRAGEDY

Four people died and 45 others were injured when a freight train derailed and collided with a Via Rail train during a blinding snowstorm near Catawauville, Que., about 50 km west of Montreal. It was the first serious train accident in Canada since 23 people died in a February, 1986, collision between a Via train and a freight train near Mission, Alta.

## AN OUVRE BRANCH

In what some analysts viewed as a gesture of good faith to English Canada, Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa confirmed a proposal to allow francophone children of immigrants whose mother tongue is English would now be allowed to attend school in that language. The province's 8.6 million currently comprise 45 immigrants at that province to send their children to French schools.

## OUTSIDING THE DISSENTERS

The Reform Party of Canada expelled four of its members after they complained that the leadership had lost touch with the party's grassroots. One of the ousted Reformers, George Van Der Horst, accused party leader Preston Manning of a "dictatorial style."



tenor during private briefing sessions on complex policy issues. Like former premier Jean-Jacques Lévesque, he usually arrives at where his advisors explain issues to him in simple, anecdotal terms. Some Liberals also privately criticize his habit of relying heavily on longtime friends and colleagues for guidance at the expense of newer faces and ideas. Indeed, Chretien receives much of this advice from the close circle of the party's senior positions with people closely associated with former prime minister Pierre Trudeau—including Senator Keith Davey, Senator Allan Rock and Senator Joyce Fairbank, all veterans members of the party. He is particularly sensitive about situations that he has allowed himself to be controlled by a small circle of advisors—including his principal secretary and longtime friend Edward Goldring.

Perhaps more seriously, some Liberal voters are gravely dismayed by rumors that even more Trudeau-style Liberals may run for office as candidates in the next election, including former cabinet ministers Eugene Whelan, 67, Bernard Dabson, 76, and Trudeau's former principal secretary, James Gault, 53 (who fairly denies he wants to run). Complained one Liberalist, who took office in 1984, "Bringing back a bunch of people from the 1970s is hardly a good way to enter the 1990s."

Chretien's hesitancy for imposing solutions—which served him well as a minister in several high-profile cabinet portfolios—has clearly become a disadvantage now that he is the party leader. His most costly political errors include his admissions about whether

he would revoke the federal Goods and Services Tax if elected prime minister and his hastily decided call to withdraw Canadian military forces at the start of last year's Persian Gulf War.

As a result, Chretien's advisers now say that they are encouraging him to focus on a small number of policy areas on which he holds strong beliefs. More policies will likely be brought from a general convention scheduled for Feb. 19 to 23 in Hull, Que., the Liberals' first national gathering since he was elected leader. In the meantime, two themes that Chretien emphasized last week



Maloney in Peterborough: harsh words for Reform

of Canada, Kitchin is part of a wave that threatens Tories across the country. In fact, while Conservative M.N.s now hold the three ridings that Maloney toured last week, Preston Manning's western-based populist party is rapidly gaining a foothold in the area. Manning plans major rallies there in May and June. Anti-second Newmarket businessman Jack Horst, a member of Reform's national executive council, "This is where our strength is." That fact was not lost on Maloney, who is a lobbyist at the Reform party during a bitter news conference. In a burst of election-style rhetoric, the Prime Minister declared that Manning's party would "kill mothers and do great damage to the national unity of the country."

For the most part, though, Maloney tried to

wave his now to temper the PM's and his determination to protect the principle of universality in Canada's health-care system. Senior Liberals say that position will be a cornerstone of efforts to retain the popularity of the Reform party, which proposes wide changes in the country's health-care system. And despite Chretien's vocal opposition to the PM, he now says that it would be "unfortunate" simply to disregard the opposition.

That sentiment reflects a growing sense among Chretien's people of the importance of forging a closer relationship with Washington.

For their part, U.S. officials stressed that there was no special significance to Bush's meeting with Chretien. But, said one, "We would not do this if we felt he had no chance of becoming prime minister." Chretien, on the other hand, said that he wanted "to make clear that I speak the same way at home and abroad." He added: "I do not pretend to speak for Canada now—but I say that I believe that the day when I do is coming soon." It is a message Chretien clearly hopes to repeat with increasing authority back home.

ANTHONY WILSON SMITH  
in Washington

play down the Reform threat, his speeches dealt openly with constitutional and economic issues. Asked if Reform's growth was the reason for his visit, Maloney answered, "There are many things that personality are—following [Manning] around is not one of them." Still, during his three speech days, he was called Manning's propellant to dash

federal government spending by 15 per cent "unilateral modification." Although he declared repeatedly that he expected to be returned to power—becoming the first Tory leader since Sir John A. Macdonald to be elected prime minister with a majority three times in a row—Maloney said that he had no plan to call an election this year. In his speeches, he also made several ad-hoc references to his low standing in the public opinion polls. But it was clear from the Prime Minister's campaign style, seeing that the question of a renewed mandate is not far from his mind.

GLENN ALLISON in Toronto



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# The long road to unity

Exasperation colors the constitutional debate

There is one quiet, off-stage intervention the attorney general of British Columbia argues that "aspirational" objectives should be subject to the law. There is a message note the premier of Quebec says that he is not asking for anything, and he agrees to "special treatment" for any region only on condition that Confederation's fundamentals remain intact. Otherwise, the report from the eight-day conference of federal and provincial ministers in 1997—the meeting that plunged Canada into six years of uncertain negotiations over the country's Constitution, so tied to it as to be as tight—as is typical as this week's weather.

An account of that meeting, based on daily conference handouts to the press, records that Quebec's leaders, Louis Trudel, was "surprised" after 60 hours of painstaking flows should be so much tension between the provinces and the Dominion as to their respective domains. "Surprised" is no longer right. Exasperated is a more accurate description of the constant reaction to the personal fracturing negotiations. Or boredom.

The same criteria, perhaps, the quarter-century since the modern constitutional struggle began in 1967—with a four-year recession

## ESSAY

after adoption of the 1982 Constitution that Quebec declared its endorsement has been a dramatic and historic quest in national self-discovery. But that pilgrimage has been marked by detours into disappointment, diverted by detours into what new routes to choose and burdened by the very task of a nation's journey that has accepted the most patient pilgrim's endurance.

Entered at first only to provide Quebec with special status—an endorsement to renew its membership in Confederation—the process that began in 1986 as the Quebec Round of negotiations has been broadened into the Canada Round after the first effort collapsed in 1990. Even before that failure, the province had been membered with other issues, including Senate reform, that were calculated to persuade the rest of Canada that every region is special.

In fact, precedents were laid in the process as premiers jockeyed Senate seats and, to avoid seeming to provide Quebec with exclusive rights to block future constitutional changes, suggested a veto for every province. Now, although many of the matters on the table could be resolved by routine legislation in everyday federal-provincial agreements, there is a confused consensus to extend a wide

array of special rights, powers and privileges in the fundamental law of the land. But while the field of vision has widened, the fact point remains Quebec's special status, the stumbling block to progress in the first stage.

On the latest lap of the quest, topics debated at five Renewal of Canada conferences held on successive weekends early in the 12th anniversary year of Confederation are the same as those that dominated the Ottawa meeting late in Canada's Diamond Jubilee year—just 13 months after the nation formally attained its autonomy from imperial Britain. The recent conclusion in Halifax, Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver tackled—as did the 1987 meeting in slightly different ways—the division of powers between Ottawa and the provinces, Senate reform, economic union, special status and the national identity.

The mood at those neo-Confederate assemblies of scientists, political experts and a small minority of plain citizens was often friendly. Goodwill helped to suppress old antagonisms. Patience was rare. But some jarring notes threatened the purpose of the five conferences, which were designed to provide public access to a final push towards a happy conclusion before the year is out.

Controlled and complicated access to the discussions. If special status for Quebec causes "asymmetrical federalism," so be it; but there should be no substantive diversion of power from Ottawa. An elected Senate with enhanced powers and equitable representation from all the provinces conflicts with opinions that the country is already overgoverned and overburdened with politicians. The right to



Clark (left) and Bonafide: a pilgrimage marked by detours into disappointment

possession property? No, but there should be a western guardian of national standards in social programs. And if Quebecers are to be designated as forming a distinct society within Confederation, why not apply the same definition to the Antigonish wave community?

It was the claim on behalf of the First Nations that raised a formidable threat to the federal government's hopes for an uncluttered

popular mandate to meet Quebec's minimum conditions for remaining in Canada. The claim was first registered at the Toronto conference by Ovide Mercredi, the tough and defiant Manitoba lawyer who 20 months earlier had helped to scuttle the federal-provincial agreement by those conditions, the Meech Lake accord.

As a regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations then—he was elected national chief

last June—Mercredi shrewdly saw M.L.A. Elgin Harper on using procedural methods to block ratification of the accord at the Manitoba legislature. That was a response to the exclusion of natives from the Meech Lake accord. Now, said Mercredi, along with a newly promoted but undisciplined right to Aboriginal self-government, the half-million Indians there represents west distinct-society status on some land bases with control—like the provinces—over education, health, welfare, resources and justice.

With native groups asserting ownership of west reserves of Quebec, Mercredi's plan could block Quebec's special status—defined as distinct because of its French-speaking majority, unique culture and civil-law traditions—by imposing limits on the power to "preserve and promote" its distinctiveness throughout the province. That is a demand that neither Ottawa nor Quebec City would tolerate, at least before they complete their present agenda.

The claim of the First Nations also reinforces an argument that "distinct society" is more than merely a statement of the obvious. The argument is one that, from Pierre Trudeau, author of the 1982 Constitution, and seconded Premier Chretien Weir, on opposite of the terms in 1996, helped to undo the Meech Lake accord. That part, as signed by all the first ministers three years earlier, stimulated the dispute on whether distinct society, as it was often portended in Quebec, implies special powers or, as presented in the rest of Canada, simply describes the province. Opponents contend that the term, along with a mandate to preserve and promote the French language and culture, is a kind of permanent "cease-

## VOICES FROM THE FRONT LINES

Now more than 1,000 Canadians attended one or more of the five constitutional conferences. Maclean's talked to six of them. Their reports:



**JENNIFER LAING, 35,** a Grade 13 student from Glenora, Ont., attended the Jan. 24 to 26 Calgary conference on institutions of reform.

I learned in Calgary in a few days what it would take me a year to learn elsewhere. I don't feel an elected Senate would be a disadvantage—Quebecans suffer from bad language. It is, that the conference gave people a chance to understand where other Canadians are coming from. People are going to have to learn to pull together and start talking about our future. Otherwise, we're not going to have one.



**DICKSON CRAWFORD, 46,** president of Halifax-based Maritime Life Assurance Co., took part in the Jan. 27 to 29 Halifax conference on the division of powers.

I am not a constitutional expert, not a politician and not a representative of an interest group. I am concerned about this country's future—I want to preserve it. I was hopeful that the conference would help the process of reconciliation—and I came away optimistic. I am much more aware of the complexities involved, but the confidence of keeping the country together. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

**CONSTANCE MURKALL, 60,** is a writer who lives in Victoria. She attended the Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 Montreal conference on economic union.

I was concerned about what was happening with Canada, which I love very much and would like to live in. I felt rather out of place as I was faced with people from cities in their

uniforms—mats and ties. Although there were women at the conference it was dominated by men—a lot of politicians and bureaucrats. We were really talking about problems of the past and certainly not of the future. I think we have to decide what kind of country we want. Included in that is how we look about ourselves in terms of Quebec, natives—and women. I think there is a Canadian identity—we just don't talk about it as much as Americans do.



**ROGER GIBBING, a 46-year-old political activist at the University of Calgary, helped to draft Ottawa's 28-point constitutional proposal. He led a workshop at the Calgary conference.**

In Calgary, it wasn't just a relaxing of old ideas. But the conferences should be seen as input, not as any kind of definitive statement. They were not a success of Canada; they were in large part the result of a crisis.

**NATHANIEL SWINERTON, a University of Toronto law professor, attended five of the six conferences.**

These conferences were not necessarily representative of everyone in the country. Still, there was a very positive spirit and a strong patriotism. We have learned that the public wanted to see and had a right to be seen. That there is a point where the next chapters of the law are needed—the experts and the political people who have to think of the larger picture. The question is, what kind of process are governments going to use after this is over?



Quebec population working out its own position—wasn't a truly national deliberation. But at least we are no further away from a solution. That is about as much as can be said.



**YVES ASSIMINI, 35,** a Quebec Algonquin and an adviser to the Native Council of Canada, is widely seen as a moderate native spokesman. He was on observer of the Calgary conference and a delegate to the Feb. 7 to 9 Toronto conference on identity, rights and values.



We had to fight tooth and nail to be heard at the conferences. Finally, the majority of the people, we can't beat them, so let's try to control them—and allowed us on the agenda. During a discussion of Canadian identity and values, I told the workshop that I am not a member of this country. I can't call myself a Canadian. I hope one day that my daughter and son will be able to, but I doubt it. Instead of debating the past, the speakers moved on to another topic: What was the point? So I left. Until Toronto, we had a free-flowing process. That in fact, it's down and dirty now. I've lost a lot of my optimism.



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## STANDING CLASS

standing class"—the 1982 measure that allows legislatures to temporarily override certain constitutional rights and freedoms.

Until Mercredi's claim surfaced the power needed by dissenting society, a consensus was said to be emerging that, regardless of its impact outside Quebec, the province was successful in a gesture to forestall the province's secession. But that message to the cleaver of other minority and regional interests for inclusion in the nation's defining document. These campaigns were also rewarded by the 1982 document's endorsement of a list of rights that the people had already enjoyed, under the common law—"traditional rights and freedoms we once took for granted," said the government of the day. Some special-interest arguments now say that the way a legally open for an explicit expression of the list. Ultimately, that way, the Constitution could effectively become a compilation of all of the country's political precedents, agreements and laws—taking it full-circle to the way it was, in practice, before 1982.

In the beginning of the present entanglement, the plan was simple, if not easy. In 1986 at a mid-August meeting in Edmonton, the premiers agreed to a request from Premier Robert Bourassa—supported beforehand by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in letters to the provincial leaders—that constitutional negotiations should give priority to accommodating Quebec. Other issues would be left to future talks. The issues at issue—Bourassa's position terms—were to be Quebec's recognition as a distinct society, a say in the appointment of Supreme Court justices, increased powers over immigration, the right to opt out of national programs with federal compensation and the power to veto future constitutional change.

For now, a timetable drawn at Ottawa and Quebec—designed to bring the current simmering process to a successful close before the end of the year, with Quebec renouncing a province, at least for the time being. The immediate pressure to sort out a workable formula from conflicting proposals is on the special parliamentary session led by Jean Charest, Bourassa and his Quebec Premier, with Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark directing the overall process. To succeed, the leaders in Ottawa, and in the provinces, may have to stem the tide on a Parliament's last full of

proposals for more constitutional amendments.

Even success means that depending issues are left for future consideration by a constitutional industry that, since the launching of René Lévesque's national unity commission late in 1990, has pumped at least \$50 million in federal funds—not counting provincial studies and inquiries—into the economy. And if the process fails and Quebec decides to go its own way, negotiating the terms of the separation are bound to be arduous—and expensive.

## A TIGHT TIMETABLE



With only eight months remaining before Quebec is scheduled to hold a referendum on the province's future, time is quickly running out in the search for a constitutional agreement. Some of the key events in the coming months:

**Feb. 26:** The Senate-Doobie Parliamentary Commission reports on amendments to the federal government's 25-point constitutional proposal.

**March:** Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the provincial premiers, with the probable exception of Quebec's Robert Bourassa, gather in Ottawa for a post-budget conference on the economy. The federal government is likely to use the meeting to rally support from the premiers for its constitutional proposals.

**April:** The government tables its constitutional offer in the Commons. To ensure the package will need the approval of Parliament and seven provinces with at least 38 per cent of Canada's population.

**May:** Bourassa's Liberal party holds a special policy conference to consider the terms of a referendum on the province's future.

**May-October:** The other nine provincial legislatures are likely to debate Ottawa's offer. Public hearings and provincial referendums are possible.

**Oct. 26:** The latest date by which Quebec can hold its referendum on sovereignty in compliance with Bill 100.



Butter way, the central issue will remain that issue is what is and 1980s Canada stand bewildered as the dawned domestic fiction shaping Canada's history—"the personal debate about the proper relationship between anglophones and francophones." But as it was what vast areas of the world are splintering along the fault lines of language and culture, Canada's personal debate, and the pressure. By then that Louis Thériault declared 60 years ago—for all of their totem—seems a preferable way to go.

CARL MULLINS

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Clinton (with cups) at Newborn women's forum; William Clinton (opposite) 'many people wished she was running'

## WORLD

# HIS BEST DEFENCE

**H**er calls her his best friend and closest political adviser. But now he has succeeded her to play the podium, but work in the main lecture hall of the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire's capital, Hillary Rodham Clinton, former criminal-law professor and crack Arkansas legislator, marshalled her considerable courtroom skills to win what may rank as her most daunting challenge, the crown of her husband's Southerner presidential dreams. Twenty months away by car, in Manchester, Arkansas Gov. William Clinton, the man she met and fell in love with when they were both Yale Law School students 23 years ago, stood in a ring of television lights and microphones under stage—sighing for his political life against new allegations that he may have cheated the truth in trying to avoid being

## HILLARY CLINTON BATTLES TO SAVE HER HUSBAND'S FOUNDERING CAMPAIGN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

drilled to fight in Vietnam. Already, Democratic lawmakers who had once lavished praise and money on his electability were discreetly abandoning his tarnished cause. And with his flailing White House hopes hanging in

the balance, Clinton had turned to his most powerful weapon, calling her back to New Hampshire as his ultimate defender and character witness.

For an hour, speaking without notes, Hillary Clinton held the crowd of 200 captivates by her tale of passion—the public, patriotic variety, not the kind that may have embellished her husband's career. Her posture, chess-school straight as a die; black-leathered jacket, her blood bar filling into her shoulders from the trademark black velvet headband that, at 44, still gives her a coiffure air, she pressed many of her asseverations with "Bill says." But so too would have crumpled her for a long-suffering political spouse or the wronged wife depicted by Clinton's self-proclaimed mistress, sometime Arkansas governor Geraldine Fowler.

With a politician's precise grip of events, she deftly fielded queries on everything from

Clinton's spotty environmental record to the hazy claims. Then, a shrewd pause for inevitable questions about why, despite her disavowal of country singer Tammy Wynette's song of the same title, she was standing by her man. "If anything," she said, "it's his shining belief in the goodness of people—for which there's a lot of evidence to the contrary sometimes." A skeptic who mistrust her partner for a loose heart had only to see her moments later when she told belatedly her that the Concord Minister had just endorsed Clinton for the Feb. 28 primary. "Oh," she squealed with almost girlish glee. "I can't wait to see Bill's face." Watching Mrs. James McCombs, a Concord Post-Tribune columnist, confessed that he was "vulnerable." So did Carolea. "When the talk about passion, she really has it."

As Hillary Clinton worked New Hampshire's halls and shopping malls last week, sometimes alone, sometimes going up at her husband with what one observer called "that Nancy Reagan loving gaze," there was no doubt that she had emerged as the primary's most charismatic campaigner. But would that translate

into votes for the man who only two weeks ago was the Democratic front-runner? For Alison Nashburn, a 29-year-old law student, a already had. "I was undecided, but I'm pretty not after today," she said. "The media has focused so heavily on his indiscretions that until she came here I had a tough time sorting out what he really stands for." But the night before, after a womanist lecture at the southern city of Nashville, TNCA chairman Patricia Turner, enthusing over Hillary Clinton's speech as "outstanding," demanded when asked if she would cast her ballot for the Arkansas governor. "Oh, she won't be the person in office," said Turner. "But I heard many people in the audience say they wished she was running."

That would tribute seems to permeate through almost every crowd that Hillary Clinton addresses—just as it has in Arkansas ever since the Democratic conservative legislators in 1983 with a spirited defense of her husband's educational reforms. At the end of that presentation, state Representative Ligonis proclaimed to both squires on the floor and declared, "I think we elected the young Clinton." After the couple appeared on a post-Spring Bowl edition of CBS' 60 Minutes last month to deal with Fowler's allegations of a 13-year affair with the governor, most analysts complained that he had sidestepped some questions. But they believed his

forthright wife with her unflinching argument that their marriage was essentially nobody's business but their own. A week later, when she was asked during a solo appearance on ABC's *PrimeTime Live* program if she had forgiven him, she hesitated. "If you've married for more than 10 minutes, you're going to have to forgive somebody for something."

But her very downing power has underlined the dearth of women in contemporary American politics. Some commentators have also noted that both of their married Democratic candidates also have wives who are lawyers with dazzling qualifications for public office—former Massachusetts Governor Fred Thompson's wife, Mika, and Iowa Sen. Thomas Blunt's wife, Ruth. An Austin-based political consultant Ann Leves noted, "This is where we become peculiarly conscious of how small the overall number of women elected is."

Still, despite her ardent husband, Hillary Clinton brushes off suggestions that she would make the better candidate with a self-effacing "I'm on the team." Last week, as she shook every head proffered to her with an easy grace that may bring politicians

right envy, she reluctantly edged to Madison's that she looses campaigning. "There are so many good people out there who care about the issues that I get so much energy back," she said. But she counted that she has "never thought about" public office for herself. "No," she said, "what I like is bringing people together around issues and talking through how we're going to solve problems."

But, she pointed out, were it not for her choice of universities, she might have had a different political fate. Brought up in the comfortable Chicago suburb of Park Ridge as the only daughter of a conservative father-state owner, she left for Wellesley College in Massachusetts in 1965 as a Republican. By the time she graduated, the issue herself caught up in the 1960s struggles for social justice that gave her an instant empathy with the tall, energetic young Democrats who first convinced the student leaders at Yale, boasting about the size of the watermain in his home state of Arkansas.

William Clinton, who had grown up poor and rebellious in a country house called Hope, attended an elite boarding school and then a law school fellow aluminate Robert Reich, now a world-renowned Harvard economist. But he admits that when he first began courting her, she scared him. And her father was clearly surprised when she brought him home. Their partnership was partly for love, in politics,



## World Notes

### KINDING THE PEACE

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended the creation of a peacekeeping force of about 13,000 soldiers after war-torn Yugoslavia. The UN Security Council was to meet this week to approve the recommendation, and an advance force could be in place by early March. Russian Affairs Minister Boris Yeltsin's husband that Clinton is willing to participate in the peacekeeping operation.

### ALGERIAN TURNOUT

Algeria's military-backed regime organized a 12-month state of emergency after more than 150 people were killed in the streets, mostly Muslim demonstrators that by transparent police. Further violence continued in the capital of Algiers as Muslim extremists killed eight policemen and six soldiers in separate attacks. A French-led coalition of states issued a power law search, cancelling second round elections after the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front took a landslide lead in the first round in December.

### A SPREADING PLAGUE

The World Health Organization reported that more than a million people have contracted the HIV virus, which many people believe causes AIDS—since April, 1981, when the first agency noted its first signs. Of the new male victims, more than 50 per cent were infected through heterosexual intercourse. By the end of 1991, sub-Saharan Africa had the most AIDS cases—nearly six million. In Canada, heterosexual activity has accounted for eight per cent of the 5,647 reported cases, including 3,422 deaths.

### TROUBLE IN KASHMIR

After a day of pitched battles with Pakistani security forces in which at least three people died, as many as 5,000 demonstrators stormed a planned march across the ceasefire line into the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir, the disputed three-state region. Over the past two years, Muslim militants in India, with the support of sympathizers in Pakistan, have been fighting to win independence for the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

### CALIFORNIA FLOODS

Heavy flooding from the worst storm to hit drought-stricken southern California in a century caused an estimated \$1 billion and more than \$25 million in damage. As the National Weather Service predicted more rain, Gov. Pete Wilson declared both Los Angeles and Ventura counties disaster areas.



working in Texas as the housing 1992 senator campaign of presidential hopeful George McGovern. The questionable liberal Democrats who lost to Richard Nixon. And the man who had appointed young William Clinton as the campaign's Texas co-ordinator was a politician whose client was divided four years ago by a sex scandal (1988 Democratic front-runner Gary Hart).

After graduation, Clinton soon returned to Arkansas to earn his political ardor, while Rodham served a stint as a staff lawyer at the Children's Defense Fund, then based in Cambridge, Mass. She later moved to Washington to work for the House Judiciary committee that recommended Nixon's impeachment. That just may explain why the former president felt moved to observe two weeks ago that her brilliance could prove a liability. Said Nixon: "If the wife comes through in too strong and too strategic, it makes the husband look like a wimp." Last week, equating Nixon with the same campaign of Republican "dirty tricks" that she was a being waged against her husband, Hillary Clinton responded with an understatement, "I thought we got rid of Richard Nixon."

She has often recounted how, as a reluctant big-city girl, she finally "followed my heart" to Arkansas, the impoverished backwater where she and Clinton married in October, 1975. But she says that there, for the first time, she understood real poverty, and a glimpse into her own actions on education and children's issues. Recounting Clinton's insistence that at state politics—he was elected the nation's youngest governor in 1978, at 33—critics may have exaggerated her role in his stunning defeat two years later. A loquacious brashness, she was, glasses and spaced marriage, she had crafted

local teachers by refusing to take her husband's name. Said Arkansas Times editor John Brampton: "A lot of little things were a sign of wholeness on his part, but he couldn't persuade her. There was also a feeling she was a little bit uptight and alien."

But in the wake of their stunning 2000 defeat, she showed that she had learned her lesson. Although both Clintons underwent make-overs, his was political. She acquired contact lenses, stretched her hair blond and "added" Clinton to her name, as she likes to put it, before their daughter, Chelsea Victoria, now 18, was born later that year. So successful was her transformation that, in Clinton's 17th year back in the state-house, the main gaffe against her is her perfection.



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Rising daily at dawn to juggle doing motherhood and a partnership in Little Rock's prestigious Kate Lane Farm, she ran a house that welcomed 20,000 visitors a year, she served on 17 corporate and civic boards, including that of the Arkansas-based discount giant Wal-Mart Stores Inc., and earned an estimated three times her husband's \$46,000 governor's salary. Even some of Clinton's most vocal critics express admiration for her. Said Brampton: "I think he just pales in comparison to her. She's so direct and so widely-respected. She points up his weaknesses."

Now, Hillary Clinton is struggling to point up the weaknesses of a political partner where she fears her own pet causes will be swayed by what she calls "tabloid terrorism." And as usual, she is not missing any words. Invited to stand in for her husband at a Washington event two weeks ago, she joked that Clinton was with "the other woman in his life"—celebrating Chelsea to a father-daughter dance in Little Rock. But her nose betrayed the tell of their public ordeal, and many in the room blanched at her sly dig, lauded in another jest. "I've heard so many rumors this week, I can't keep track of them," she said. "I know you've heard them too. You may have even started some of them."

Still, she tries to keep the sense of humor that propelled her to give her husband a serious leg for Christmas "because there's an old saying in my family that you can't tell how far a dog will jump till you punch him." That week, as a battered Clinton returns to his home turf for the March Southern premiere, he may keep at mind that challenge from his chief defense counsel and champion.

MARK MC DONALD in Grand

## 'HAUNTING THE LANDSCAPE'



Clinton: "There's this ghost candidate, good people of New Hampshire what to do?"

Launched in January by a group of public relations consultants, the Clinton drive movement stepped on the eve of the New Hampshire run. It profited from the phony fortunes of another Democratic front runner, Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who was damaged by allegations of marital infidelity and questions about his efforts to make another load of drugs—military service in Vietnam. Last week, Clinton made an effort to hide his glare at Clinton's waning electricity. The New York governor in still forces ahead the position last month in a national weekly poll, the Star, of a taped phone conversation in which Clinton said that Clinton "acts like" a man with Mafia connections. The same week that Clinton apologized, a group called People for the

Preferred Candidate opened headquarters at Concord, N.H. The office now has 25 volunteers making phone calls and selling "Vote for Clinton" buttons for \$1 apiece.

From an estimated \$105,000 in donations, organizers launched a \$25,000 media blitz for Clinton. In a campaign where some of the five major Democratic candidates had spent much more, Clinton's drive driver Thomas David Smith said he, treasurer of the so-called Mike Huckabee, said David: "She's the only one who can defeat George Bush heads down."

But as Clinton raved the house of cards of an elusive closer deal in April, when his budget troubles are expected to be resolved, some Democrats complained that the confusion had only further hardened that party's White House dream. Still, another one of Clinton's likely co-ordinator comes from his Republican base in New York. They associated a pro-Clinton advertising campaign of their own, fully two years before the next governor's race, called, "Clinton's Get's Go."

M. N.

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# The last Soviet

*A cosmonaut will return to a changed world*

When Sergei Krikaliev blasted into space in a Soyuz (Soviet) rocket capsule nine months ago, he joined a select club. Since April 12, 1961, only 71 other Soviet cosmonauts have followed the lead of space pioneer Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit Earth. But Krikaliev, a sports-loving, 33-year-old mechanical engineer from St. Petersburg, will be a man from another time and place when he finally returns to Earth next month after 282 days aboard the space station Mir (Peace). Already, the cosmonaut has completed more than 4,300 orbits of Earth aboard the six-year-old Mir, about one every 90 minutes. But 180 miles below his flight path, Krikaliev's hometown has transformed itself with equally amazing speed. When he lands near the Baikonur space centre in the central Asian republic of Kazakhstan on March 25, he will be almost as new a foreign country. Kazakhstan declared itself independent after August's failed hard-line coup, but before cosmonaut Alexander Alexandrov, 49, in Moscow last week, Krikaliev will have a hard time adjusting.

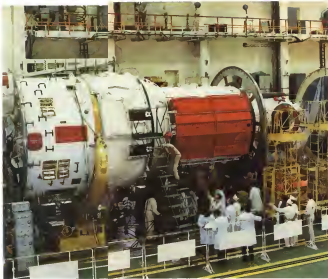
In the same way, a space program that once bore all achievements dating from the world's first successful satellite launching—Sputnik-1 in 1957—was adjusting to the hard times that have accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union. Those days, Communist rule. The 11 republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States that succeeded the union have agreed to continue a joint space program. But the 1992 budget allocated just \$2.6 per cent of what the state spent on space in 1989—and the equivalent of just \$2 million at current rates of exchange. The shrinking space budget has gutted the once-vaunted space program of the former Soviet Union which, in the 1960s, engaged with the United States in a race to the moon. By last month, Russian problems were so severe that technicians at Zvezda (Star City City), the Moscow-area complex that houses the space agency's main flight-control centre, threatened to strike for higher wages.

Krikaliev himself had been scheduled to return to Earth last October, but space officials—intending to keep an emergency aboard Mir in order to service the station—extended his tour. He still spends throughspace, high above that turbulence and danger in his home country, in the company now of Alexander Volkov, the pilot-commander who replaced another cosmonaut halfway through a mission that began during another era. Because Volkov joined Mir in October, after his home republic of Ukraine declared independence, Krikaliev is officially the last Soviet in space. Since the cosmonaut blasted off for Mir on May 18, 1991, the Soviet Union and the rest of its old provinces, Mikhail Gorbachev, have become history, rendering the USSR (U S S R in Cyrillic script) as good as an anachronism. Even Krikaliev's entire city no longer exists in its former form. Leningrad reverted last year to its pre-revolutionary name of St. Petersburg.

Krikaliev is well aware of those changes during each orbit, ground controllers can contact the space station throughout the 20 minutes that it takes for Mir to sweep across the old Soviet empire. And they say, they make a point of passing on news of significant events. The people who must frequently talk to Krikaliev—over a communications link that sometimes features twenty-five interruptions—are from a relatively small group that includes his wife, Elena, and staff psychologists. She added that she and her husband never discuss politics during their brief talks—conversations that usually take place each week. Said Elena: "Sergei is a strong person and he understands that everything possible is being done for him and his cosmonaut, Alexander Volkov. What he says is his home and family."

For his part, psychologist Syed, 41, confirmed Elena's description of Krikaliev as a mentally and physically strong man. Said Syed: "They are a young couple, and in many ways this separation is harder for her, particularly with all the problems we are experiencing in the former Soviet Union. I talked to her today, and she said that it was tough looking after a small child." By contrast, he said, Krikaliev

seems to be doing fine. He said Krikaliev said that the cosmonauts don't have to endure



Technicians assembling Mir, Krikaliev's opposite: exhilaration and sensory deprivation

a separation that has already lasted nine months. Declared Elena, a slim, fair-haired woman who declined to divulge her age: "He just never been apart before for such a long period. I expected him to come back in half a year, so you can imagine how upset I was when I learned that they were not going to bring him down until March." She added that she and her husband never discuss politics during their brief talks—conversations that usually take place each week. Said Elena: "Sergei is a strong person and he understands that everything possible is being done for him and his cosmonaut, Alexander Volkov. What he says is his home and family."

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recently revealed his feelings in the first daily conversation he had with the psychologist. Added Syed, a 16-year veteran of keeping cosmonauts reasonably calm in space: "Sergei is a workaholic and not very talkative. When he does talk, it is usually about problems connected with work in the space station."

But it was Alexandrov who could best offer insights into the blend of exhilaration and sensory deprivation that is Krikaliev's daily experience in space. During his 24-year career as a cosmonaut, Alexandrov has logged a total of 309 days and 30 hours in voyages aboard the space shuttle Soyuz (Soyuz) and Mir. "You never forget the view," he said. "But you get extremely tired of plastic and metal and start longing for wooden objects. My family used to send me acorns, leaves and grass through the cargo ship." Added Alexandrov: "Krikaliev, too, misses these things, and he has told me that he feels uneasy about all the political changes. Undoubtedly, it is going to be difficult

for him. Remember how it was for Soviet cosmonauts? They were patriots who believed that they were doing something important for their country. Now, things are no longer so clear-cut."

Meanwhile, Gorbachev, the state space agency, has tried to bring the costs of maintaining Mir under by offering contractors a rate that is barely out of the world. During the past two years, customers including the Japanese television network, Tokyo Broadcasting System and both the Austrian and British governments have paid up to \$12 million each to place short-term astronauts aboard Mir. Krikaliev, in fact, expects to spend his last eight days as a test subject in a German cosmonaut who will then return to Earth with him. Space-program officials in Moscow said that a Canadian company had expressed interest in a similar venture last month. The firm—which they refused to identify on the grounds that the negotiations had been conducted privately—

apparently backed out when Gorbachev's government declined to have the price of the space ride to \$5 million.

Despite such sporadic indications of foreign capital, many Moscowites complain that their country can no longer afford the splurge on the deteriorating space station, which has already had its service life extended until 1995. Read the daily newspaper *Iskustvennoye Nebesnoye* (Artificially Heavens): "A week-long space tour aboard the Soviet station costs the foreign participant about \$16 million. But it is a distance how much such cosmonauts are for our sake, since these fees are offset by the expenses of maintaining Mir and the launch of a spaceship to reach the station."

Many space-program employees clearly believe that they should get more of the money that is available. On Jan. 18, technicians at Star City warned that they would go on strike unless they received an increase in wages amounting 500 rubles per month, about \$5. They staged five protests to coincide with the docking of a cargo ship alongside Mir. That evening, and several nights crowded with signs and placards expressing their plight, received wide publicity from journalists who went to Star City to cover the monthly rearguarding of the space station. But even space celebrities, the cosmonauts themselves, do not receive lavish financial rewards. Like Maslennikov, the cosmonaut who set a world record when his 346-day voyage in space ended in 1988, earns just 800 rubles per month.

Other officials, Alexandrov among them, voice their concern that friction between the former republics will inhibit all the cosmonauts' progress. Said Alexandrov: "Kazakhstan may have got what it wanted when it withdrew the Baikonur centre last summer, but the Kazakhs cannot afford to operate it as the place is beginning to run down." He added: "Even if the republics are no longer given any transport rights the right to refuse when they fly to Baikonur." As a result, cosmonauts sometimes have to take the train from Moscow to Kazakhstan just a two-day journey. They did it in 1985 at the very beginning of the Soviet space program.

In Moscow, Elena Krikaliev described her husband as simply a man who was finding a long, tough assignment rather than the last of the Soviet last-cosmonauts. Said Elena: "It is really an advantage to see Sergei in his last mission. They did it in 1985 at the very beginning of the Soviet space program."

Malcolm Gifford is in Moscow.



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# THE RRSP TEMPTATION

**T**hirty Green and Katherine Pipe want to buy a townhouse. Herred, but just over a month, the two 35-year-olds, are a security guard and the assistant in a legal firm, are trying to take advantage of depressed house prices in the Toronto area to buy their first home. But even though they have set themselves a modest target price of \$150,000, they are still short of the \$16,000 in cash that they feel they need for a 10-per-cent down payment. But that may soon change. If Ottawa yields to growing political pressure and allows home buyers to dip into their tax-deferred Registered Retirement Savings Plan for down payments, Green and Pipe could soon be a lot closer to owning a house. Bill, Pipe's father, personal-finance analyst Gordon Pipe, says that the prospect makes him uneasy. His concern: that relaxing the rules governing RRSPs could leave some Canadians without adequate income in their old age. Despite that risk, said Pipe, "Politicians are lusting their greedily upon the \$100 billion in accumulated RRSP savings in this country."

Currently, the money in Canadians' RRSP accounts has attracted the interest of at least some politicians—and that of Canada's recession-battered home builders. Last week, five of the most powerful members who attended a meeting with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in Ottawa to discuss the economy urged the federal government to allow Canadians to tap into their RRSPs to help them buy or renovate houses. Support for the plan is broad-based party lines: the Liberal premier of Newfoundland, Frank Edward, and New Brunswick, as well as Ontario New Democrat Bob Rae and Ontario Conservative Doug Young all agreed that it could provide a kick-start to the economy without increasing government spending. Housing industry groups, including the Canadian Real Estate Association, have urged similar changes. But despite the display of political support, many experts—caution that opening up RRSPs to other uses would have only a marginal impact on the economy.

There is a more serious concern as well. Many critics echo Pipe's alarm that any easing of the existing rules governing RRSPs could

## PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY WITH TAX-SHELTERED MONEY ARE ON SHAKY GROUND

dangerously erode the funds that many Canadians rely on for their financial security after retirement. Said James Rogers, a Vancouver-based financial adviser for more than two decades: "I am terribly distressed to think that one day we are going to borrow from the future to have a current problem."

Finance Minister Donald Macdonald and his officials appear to share those concerns. As they prepare for the upcoming federal budget, expected some time in the next few weeks, these officials say that they are still considering easing the rules on RRSP withdrawals. But one official, who asked not to be identified, acknowledged that such a move could lead to more "refill-and-continue" withdrawals—deposits later, said the official. "Why not use it for re-training or starting small businesses?"

The competing plans for tapping RRSP funds are significantly complex and often at odds with each other. But in essence, all of them would accomplish the same objective: allow some Canadians to use a portion of their savings to part of the cash down payment on a residence. The proposals differ mainly over what limits and conditions would apply. Most proposals would limit the amount that individuals could remove from their RRSPs to \$15,000



or 10 per cent of the value of the home they wish to buy, whichever was less. And most of the proposals would prohibit home buyers from actually withdrawing money permanently from their RRSPs. (But, however, would allow a mortgage deduction of \$15,000.) Instead, buyers would borrow from their own tax-sheltered retirement savings account—repaying the loan later in installments or when they sold their house.

Plans for implementing the proposal diverge over who would be eligible to tap their RRSPs. The Canadian Real Estate Association, which has been lobbying for relaxed RRSP rules since 1980, would allow access to the retirement accounts limited to first-time home buyers. But Rae and many construction union leaders have more serious—including provisions for homeowners to borrow from their RRSPs to pay for renovations to their present house. Rae predicts that such reforms could free \$20 billion from their accounts between now and the end of 1992, generate 40,000 new

Building a house in Richmond, B.C.; Rae (below left): transcending party lines

housing starts and create 87,000 new jobs. But in many reports, those assumptions appear wildly optimistic. Even Canadian Real Estate Association president Michael Ziegler acknowledges that slowing first-time buyers alone to top their RRSPs will not significantly aid the economy. Ziegler says that his group's proposal as targeted aimed at a comparatively small segment of about 300,000 people who now live in rented accommodation. He added: "It has always been intended as a long-term initiative to improve housing affordability for modest earners."

At the same time, there are strong indications that Canada's housing industry, which slumped last year to a seven-year low of 158,197 new housing starts, will pick up later this year, even without a boost from RRSPs. Indeed, one Toronto-based housing economist, Frank Clayton, predicts a 10-per-cent increase in nationwide housing starts this year—resulting in 175,000—fueled by lower interest rates and a slowly improving overall economy.

And in any case, low first-time home buyers have enough money in RRSP accounts to benefit from any of the proposals. Richard Hulse, a 34-year-old physician for Loma Cosmo Services in Halifax, for one, plans to complete the purchase of a \$15,000, three-bedroom, two-

detached house 15 km south of the Nova Scotia capital this week. Hulse says that he and his wife, Sherry, who now live in a one-bedroom apartment with their five-year-old son, decided to buy a house last summer when they saw prices and interest rates declining. But Hulse added that relaxing RRSP rules would not have helped his family, nor would it help many other young couples that he knows. "I don't have my money in an RRSP—that is penny," he says. "The people who do are in their 40s, and they already have a house."

Hulse's assumptions are borne out by hard evidence. According to a survey conducted last year by the polling firm Decima Research for Toronto-based Royal Trust, fewer than half of all Canadians over 35 have RRSPs. As well, Royal Trust executives and other financial planners say that even young families do have an issue, they often contain much less than \$10,000. Said Paul Harris, a managing partner for investment services with Toronto-based Royal Trust: "Although these people access to that money just won't kick-start the housing market or the economy."

Even if Canadians did withdraw large amounts of cash from their RRSPs, it is far from certain that diverting the money into housing would produce any wider economic bene-

### HONDA LOSES A ROUND

The U.S. Customs Service ruled that less than half of the content of cars built by Honda Canada Inc. in Alliston, Ont., in 1989 and early 1990, and shipped to buyers in the United States, originated in North America. As a result, the cars do not qualify for treatment as domestic products under the Free Trade Agreement and are subject to a 2.5-per-cent duty. The ruling arrives on appeal by Honda, which had two weeks to respond; the company faces a \$20-million bill for the disputed duty and may consider leaving Canada. Meanwhile, Ottawa says it will not be diplomatic in postponing the decision.

### SILKS FROM SEA TO SEA?

Trade missions from Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, British Columbia and Alberta, agreed to a request that have prevented being invited to see provinces from being sold in winter. The governments of the five other provinces are considering a similar step. The move to shun the provinces' provincialism was made in the 1970s, followed an international trade ruling that will require the provinces to relax restrictions on foreign, mostly American, beer sold in Canada.

### LABOR CALLS FOR CAR QUOTAS

Canadian Auto Workers union president Robert White called on Ottawa to impose quotas to limit Japanese car imports to 15 per cent of the Canadian car market in an effort to prop up domestic manufacturers. But General Motors of Canada Ltd. president George Pappas rejected White's proposal and called instead for Japan to open its own market to more exports of North American-built cars.

### GO-SLOW WARNING FOR HIBERNIA

Investors in the Hibernia offshore oil-assessment work that work in the \$5.5-billion project at Newfoundland will see drastically after Gulf Canada Resources withdrew from the four-company consortium developing the field. At the same time, a second partner, Chevron Inc., said that it may also scale down its participation.

### EMPTY NITS

Grand fish processor Fishery Products International announced that it will lay off 1,800 workers in Newfoundland for at least three months, delivering another blow to the province's battered economy. The company plans to lay off 855 workers as it slips at Catalina and the crews of 18 fishing vessels. Company managers said that those crews have found it unusually difficult to locate and catch cod this year.











## Rushing Canada to the edge of the precipice

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

**T**rying to maneuver Canada in the time the politicians have made available to us is like trying to scale Mount Everest on a dinner date.

It can't be done. In the escalating constitutional debate, process has become as important as substance. The Meech Lake fiasco proved that the process of self-imposed deadlines can be dangerously counterproductive. As pollster Angus Reid put it: "The millions of average Canadians who actually watched the Meech Lake story with the disinterest of window-shoppers were transformed into its agony each and every time the story was on."

The politicians are repeating the mistake of setting a deadline that can't realistically be met—and that time day is hitting the fans. The entire exercise of course began by the Ontario's *Interim*—rescheduled in Bill 150, which calls for a referendum on sovereignty to be held between Oct. 32 and 36. Prime Minister Mulroney's director general of elections, has outlined the referendum itinerary, as set out by provincial law. A 21-day period is required to debate the referendum question in the province's *House of Commons*. It will be followed by a compulsory waiting period of 20 days before the referendum debate can be opened. Then, the actual referendum campaign, which requires between 47 and 53 days, can begin. That's a total of roughly three months, which would require Premier Robert Mulroney to hold the Quebec Legislature as late as Nov. 4.

It gets worse. The final federal offer will have to be approved both by a Quebec sovereignty committee (where Parti Québécois members will have all kinds of opportunities to filibuster) and a Liberal party convention (also pledged to spend the all-consuming Alberta Report)—plus Mulroney's own caucus (where there exists a serious split between nationalists and federalists).

These are all time-consuming procedures, but even that right timetable leaves out what

*We like to move slowly. What other country took 98 years to decide on its flag and a century to sanction its national anthem?*

could be the toughest hurdle of all. Mulroney has indicated that, given an acceptable federal set of proposals, he would prefer to hold the referendum on Ottawa's offer rather than on the issue of sovereignty itself. That would certainly require approval from his party and caucus and, most time-consuming of all, an amendment to Bill 150. That, in turn, would mean starting the whole constitutional procedure by mid-May in order to meet the deadline for debate on the referendum legislation itself.

At the Ottawa end of the process, the Bicentennial-Dobson Parliamentary Committee is due to report on amendments to the federal government's 26-point proposal by Feb. 28. If the committee's recommendations are accepted by the Mulroney cabinet and the Tory caucus, the package will then have to be approved by the House of Commons and the Senate. While there is no set timetable for that legislative process, also subject to filibusters, the best guess is that it will probably not be completed until the end of April. That would leave just two weeks to finalize the negotiations with Quebec.

At the same time, a tricky round of federal-provincial bargaining will have to be going on. That will include Brian Mulroney meeting with the nine premiers, probably excluding Mulroney,

hoping to win their support for the new package—or at least approval of seven provinces containing half of Canada's population, enough to pass these constitutional amendments.

If Ottawa can outbribe the new Constitution through that timetable, the premiers will then have to take the proposals back to be passed by their own legislatures. No one knows how many Edith Rogers will successfully emerge during that process, anxious, for good reason or not, to become lockstoms in Canadian history by holding up their province's approval. At least three jurisdictions (Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Quebec) already have said that they may hold provincial-level referendums on the issue. And in the case of Manitoba, there will have to be public hearings as well.

Since no Canadian citizen will want to abandon the right to secede as an option on the table, there will almost certainly be a referendum in every province, as well as in the territories. Already, June 18 is being mentioned as a possible polling date. (If Quebec's approval has been secured ahead of time, it would take only six other provinces with 26 per cent of the population to seal the deal.)

Despite the apparently impossible schedule, Peter Lougheed, the former Alberta premier who is emerging as one of the few voices of the constitutional debate, still believes that the timetable is feasible. "One way to short-circuit the process" he told me during a Vancouver interview recently, "would be to take the Brandon-Dobson Committee report, if it's unanimous, directly to the premiers, meeting in closed session with Mulroney as an observer. Then, if there is general agreement by Ontario and six other provinces to the proposals—and it also finds three with Quebec—referendums would be held simultaneously in each province. The federal Parliament would endorse the referendum, but they would be held under provincial auspices. Ontario and the nationalists in Quebec would have to be satisfied that there is enough coming from the rest of Canada that they [the] sole province play a deferral plan for their own referendum."

Lougheed added: "What the issue is that the package can't be smaller than was offered by Meech Lake. It can be delivered from Meech Lake, but it can't be any less or otherwise we will not be able to accept it."

I agree Lougheed is right. But what Canada's politicians have ignored is the fact is that we Canadians are a stronger people. Nearly every time freedom has been threatened anywhere on the globe, we've mobilized our best and brightest, dispelling them to defend or lamp down on some foreign cause. But, when the threatened existence of our own country is threatened—as it now surely is—we stand back, yawn, scratch ourselves and wonder, "What else is new?"

We don't like to be ruled. What other country took 98 years to decide on its flag and a century to formally sanction the words of its national anthem? We like to move as slowly as the seasons, and wait for things to happen, rather than rushing to judgment.

Yet that's precisely what we're being asked to do. It doesn't compute.

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# Canada's Golden Girl



Athletes often talk about having dreams of winning the ultimate accolade in sports—the Olympic gold medal. For Kerrin Lee-Gartner, that dream was very real. "About a year and a half ago," she recalled last week, "I woke up and I'd had a dream in French where somebody was saying 'millefleur die, Kerrin Lee-Gartner, Canada.' And I don't even speak French." On Saturday, high atop a mountain in the French Alps, Lee-Gartner's dream came true in a way that was almost too perfect. She skied to victory in the women's downhill event—the first time ever

## CALGARY'S KERRIN

### LEE-GARTNER

#### STRIKES GOLD

#### IN A WEEK

#### OF OLYMPIAN

#### SLIPS AND SPILLS

for a Canadian—at the 1988 Winter Games, beating American Betsy Louden by a mere six-hundredths of a second. And at the bottom of the slope, Lee-Gartner seemed overwhelmed by her own achievement. "Wow, wow, is this happening," she said with a grin in the smelter's bouquet of flowers in celebration.

The gold was, first of all, an outstanding personal accomplishment for Lee-Gartner, a 25-year-old skier from Calgary who has battled through serious injuries to become racing legend. Her previous best international performance was a third-place finish in a world cup race last season, and last week she had to beat out the top-ranked women skier, Austria's Petra Kronberger, who placed fifth. But the medal—Canada's first Winter Olympic gold since speed skater Gertjan Bouchee's two races at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, in 1984—was also badly needed boost for the whole Canadian team.

Until Lee-Gartner's victory, Canada's first week at the Albertville Games had been largely a story of what might have been. Top contenders for gold medals, including star figure skater Kurt Browning, fell short of expectations. Aside from Lee-Gartner's gold, the toughest hope came from the Olympic hockey team, led by center Eric Lindros and goalie Sean Boucher, which scored six first four games to win a place in this week's medal round. On Friday night, when the Canadians whipped Czechoslovakia 5-3, 43 Canadian athletes from other sports came out to cheer the team on.

"Kerrin's Lee-Gartner also had to contend with one of the toughest women's downhill courses on her way to the Olympic medal. The Roc de Fer (Iron Rock) run in the town of Méribel had claimed victims all week. Skier after skier crashed, often at a difficult jump that many of them nicknamed "Wooden" because it tore down like a wooden slide. But Lee-Gartner said that she was not intimidated by the run, which gives skiers no moment to relax on the way down. "The approach I took was all as nothing," she said. "I knew it would be close, but I didn't want to be close and end in sixth place. I wanted to be in the podium."

For much of the week, the tumblers on the Roc de Fer seemed to come uncomfortably close to symbolizing that year's Games. The Winter Olympics are traditionally presented as a festival of grace and speed. But during the 18th Games atop the peaks and in the valleys of

the soaring French mountains, the events at times resembled an Alpine demolition derby. Zipped into rubberized body suits or bedecked in spangly costumes, skiers and skaters crashed, slipped, slid—and sometimes just plain crashed. There was Canadian skier Lucie La-Rochette, who hurt both knees in a tumble down the women's Alpine run and was knocked out of the Games before her first event. Such star Alpine skaters as Browning and American Christopher Dornan appeared embarrassingly on the ice. But it was the world cup leader, Paul Accola of Switzerland, who provided the Games' most poignant symbol. He spun around

and ended up crossing the finish line backwards in his downhill race—one of many disastrous victims of the precipitous course.

It was not the smoothest start to a Winter Olympics, which at the end of the first week was shaping up as a Tourist Office between Austria and nearby nations. Germany for first place in the medal stakes. They were followed closely by the somewhat disgraced Unified Team of Russians, Ukrainians and other former Soviet citizens. Next came the Norwegians, and then the last country, France, which was off to its best Winter Games start since 1968, when it hosted the Olympics in Grenoble.

**Sliding:** There were individual honors from many countries. Bonnie Blair, the gallop American speed skater, needed to run gold medals in the 500- and 1,000-m events to add to the gold and bronze she won four years ago at the Calgary Winter Games. Norway's Vegard Urvang, nicknamed "The Viking," was also a double gold winner in cross-country skiing, and grabbed a silver medal as well. And the Russian sisters, Dora and Angelina, won gold and silver for Austria by sliding on their backs in bobsled heats down the huge track at La Plagne.

Those who came to watch the Games at times also needed the endurance of Olympic athletes. They lined up to board the fleet of 2,000 buses that cranked for up to two hours along the network of switchback mountain roads connecting the 10 competition areas, performing the Alpine air with closed fumes. When they got there, they lined up again to spend the equivalent of \$2.50 for a tiny cup of coffee or \$6 for a cheese sandwich, then lined up once more to be herded back to the buses by a legion of dim-witted police officers and security guards. As for the 2,000 athletes, they were kept away from both spectators and media in the official Olympic Village. Erikus-to-Ban, a spa town that normally specializes in slumping treatments for overweight French and Swiss ladies, had a six-foot-high metal barrier erected down its main street to separate the athletes from everyone else.

But despite widespread grumbling over the military-style transport operation and overzealous security forces, organizers could take heart from the fact that the system had survived its first serious test. On Thursday, as much as 30 cm of snow fell on mountains highest in the mountains, but snow-plows kept traffic moving, preventing a widely predicted paralysis. Jean-Charles Killy, France's skiing hero from the 1968 Games who is co-chairman of the committee that organized the Albertville Games, was re-



Lee-Gartner's winning run, Lindros's aggressive play: skidding for the podium



LEE-GARTNER



bly relieved as he treated the ulcers on Friday morning. And he did not sound sorry that the Games he had brought to his home town of Val d'Aulps, site of the men's downhill races, were halfway over. "Organizing the Games once is a treat," he said. "A second time would be suicide."

The downhill course at Val d'Isère produced a major controversy. Designed by Swiss architect's former Olympic champion Bernard Russ, the Race de Belfort had had even top downhillers tumbaling all week. Such celebrated skiers as Lucien Borgeat's Max Gervais and Austria's Hubert Strolz crashed out of contention, leaving relatively little chance for anyone to win the downhill. The women's downhill race at Miribel, where Lee-Garner triumphed on Saturday, was also designed by Russ and produced a rash of injuries among skiers who could not negotiate its treacherous bumps and curves—including Canadian

*Blair speed skating to the first of her two gold medals gates*

ing committee, said that the club does not like simply to count medals. Instead, it prefers to concentrate on athletes who place in the top eight spots for their event—an achievement that is acknowledged with a special certificate from the International Olympic Committee. "That really does recognize a very top international position," said Seher.

By that paradox, Canada could claim 13 overnight results at the Games' midpoint. And

ponding to most casual spectators than the subtleties of the butterfly and luge—so of course along, in which skiers fly off rounds of snow to the accompaniment of blaring rock music. As well, in some sports Canadian fans short of even the modest goals that they had set for themselves. The three big jumpers—Boris Berezin, Ben Richards and Kirk Ales—placed third, 16th and 53th, respectively, in a field of 58 after failing to adopt the new Nordic of jumping with one tip spread. And the men's cross-country race team, which has been the only Canadian team to win a medal between 1980 and 1988, finished 11th. "In some cases these kids haven't been able to compete at the level we know they are capable of," said Sifer.

But despite such setbacks, Canadian hockey did provide examples of remarkable courage. In a practice session on Nov. 11, 11-year-old Scotty MacKenzie of Quebec City was struck in the head by a Quebec Pats of Windsor slasher who left him with the blood of his right nostril. It took 23 minutes to close the wound, but that didn't stop him from returning. Mark Juchaczuk, 23, went out for their first performance and managed to place 17th in a field of 79. Later, nursing his injured leg as he sat in the dug-out to prevent swelling, he said, "I don't know the difference between a leg day whether she could stand through the pain." "I thought there was no way I could get through it," he said. "But it's only when something like this happens that you find out what you are made of." Then, week members of the Canadian hockey team will find out what they are made of as they try to match Le Roy's record's gold—and raise the level of national pride that the Quebec

ANDREW PHILLIPS is *Associate*

Allegory (the Pilgrim): homes from many countries



practise as multi-ethnic British Columbia, that Lee-Garrison had her first tentative taste of skiing at the age of 3. She competed in the local Nanaimo Grosvenor beginners league, then quickly graduated to more serious competition. And she found local Mounties as ideal places to develop her skills. "It's a hidden secret in Canada," she said. "It's not close to any big city, so when you're skiing there as a child you don't have the crowds you would have in a big resort. And you can have any kind of skiing you want—flat, steep, moguls, powder." By the time she was 18, she had qualified for Canada's national C-point-two-level level before the top—and also her first world championship in cross-country in February, 2003.

injuries. Lee-Weaver already had her rights set to tag line movies. But she had to overcome serious injuries that might well have ended her professional career. In early 1986, she crashed during a World Cup race at Val d'Aoste, France. Her right ski struck a rock, and the ligaments of her right knee were badly torn. It took surgery and eight months of daily rehabilitation to return her to racing, and she returned to World Cup competition the following season. In February, 1988, Lee-Weaver's back failed her again. During another World Cup race in Colorado, she misjudged a jump and broke her neck, requiring more surgery. But on the weekend, as the 25-year-old skier asserted the link of being an Olympic champion, she had a "moment of clarity" when she became suddenly aware of the time. "It was kind of a 'death over' scenario, so I had to make a

Lee-Gardner's parents—Derry, an engineer, and Jane, a nurse—who now live in Tazewell County, N.C., got the report of her approaching victory

# Bound For Glory

LEE-GARTNER FOLLOWS  
NANCY GREENE'S TRAIL



Lee-Gartner at home in Calgary.  
It's worth every sacrifice.

some plans for the victory, he said. "I'm sure old man thought that she'd now she's done it. *Nips* last week was triumph for the young woman."

triumph for the young woman.

from a stand in Switzerland, who was watching the event on live TV; their daughter, the final seed, was leading after 12 rounds. That was 2:30 a.m. West Coast time. Confirmation of her victory did not come for another 30 minutes, a period Barry Lee described as "the longest two years of my life." On the morning after in Calgary, in the quiet neighborhood where Lee-Garcia now lives, her next-door neighbor, Ernie Hunter, said "We're on a good high. She's a very unaffected, friendly neighbor—there's no pomp about her."

**Talent:** At Ross Hightower, staff and coaches began to notice the talent in the boys' basketball team. "I was coaching them in the eighth grade, and I saw a lot of potential in these new freshmen," Tink says. "I was like, 'These kids are going to be the way.' And Thomas [Jenkins], the coach, and I saw each other at Brentwood High School. That was certainly the place with kids—Michael Desch, the coach who adopted the program after me, and I saw him at Brentwood. I was involved with racing, and that's where Gortner was always pushing himself—first to keep up with his older sister, Kelli, and later in racing, Ross [Hightower] was first downhill on the Olympic team. And I saw that talent, and I was worried." She has consistently been on the Top 10 on the *Wendy's* Circuit for the last two years. "I can't," Tinkley says, but the talent, and she says she's not going to let it go. "I know that's not good, and that's why the day I saw Kim Reed, another Canadian skater who was on the fourth line when Les Gortner grabbed her girl." The results are strong enough to all the coaches to get the team to the Olympics in participants," Reed declared. "He came to me."

After winning big, Lee-Gartner, whose hobbies include golf and soccer, will have some personal decisions. Three years ago, she married Max Gartner, a overseas professional soccer player in his native Austria who went on to become coach of the Canadian women's Olympic team. Kim Lee met him when she joined the team. After the race, she said that she planned to take a vacation with her husband and thank about the future. Max Gartner, 33, appeared to have moving congratulations for his wife. "I'm trying to talk her into leaving behind her life. But it would be unfair if she didn't get done what she could do. Maybe..." What Lee-Gartner did to the French was both unexpected and inspiring, a golden moment from Nancy Green's news.

ANDREW PHILLIPS is Atholville with JOHN HODGE in Calgary and JAMES DEACON in Toronto



# Moment Of Truth

CANADA'S KURT BROWNING SUFFERS A PAINFUL OLYMPIC SETBACK



Browning took to the ice in his brave words. He slipped and slid, and earned jumps and ended up with disappointment painted plainly on his face. Instead of the gold that he had hoped to take home to Canada, Browning ended up with a humiliating sixth-place finish. And after it was over, he had no words about the reason. Unable to compete since November because of a back injury, he said, he simply was not prepared. If I did two more weeks, I would have been in this thing," he added wistfully.

The 35-year-old Browning had been Canada's biggest hope for gold—a three-time world champion jumping for his greatest fans. His disastrous flowering came in a competition marred by controversy over the judges' scoring. Ukrainian Victor Petrenko won gold despite a mediocre performance, while American starlet Paul Wylie skated dreamily yet ended up second, ahead of Canadian-born Peter Bana. But it was 39-year-old Canadian Ilvo Skogio who was the prime victim of what many experts described as a bizarre judging. While tight-lipped skaters were taking protests, Skogio skated cleanly yet confidently, but dropped to seventh place from sixth at the midpoint of the Games.

**Wailing:** For Browning, it was a long way to the Olympic ice rink in Albertville from his skating origins in tiny Canby, Ala. His Olympic, 59-year-old Arnold (Dewey) Browning, a retired hunting guide who is now in Albertville last week with his wife, Mimi, acknowledged that "I assume you had seen me training a world champion, so I'd have landed at him like he'd fallen out of a tree."

But despite all Kurt Browning's accomplishments, there were signs

that his injury-fetted body and Canadian skating spectators had taken their toll. Just a few days before leaving Edmonton, Browning made a significant change to his two-minute, 44-second short program, substituting a more difficult triple Lutz jump for an easier triple flip to impress the judges. Many experts seemed puzzled that grins and winks warranted whether Browning was becoming distracted by the glaze of the Olympics. After he showed up at a Canadian hockey game on Monday, they questioned what he was completely focused on his event. And when Browning's comment of

trunk arrived on Thursday night, he caused a triple Axel and fell heavily to the ice—problems that persisted on the fourth Saturday.

The pressure of the Games also affected Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, gold-medal contenders in the pairs competition. Going into the event, they were ranked second in the world, dazzling audiences with arm-waves that only they perform. In one move, their trademark triple knee lift, the 38-year-old Eisler, from Seaford, Ont., throws his top 95-lb partner as high as 12 feet in the air while she spins three times. Both skaters are fiercely competitive. They even ended a personal relationship about two years ago and agreed not to date other people in order to concentrate entirely on skating.

**Fall:** But their troubles started early in their short program. Brasseur, 25, of Southville, Que., failed to complete the side-by-side double Axel jump and fell to the ice. "The first thing that passed through my mind was, 'God, what have I done?'" she said later. "The second thing was, 'We've got to keep going.' I said, 'I'm sorry,' and I remember Lloyd telling me, 'Finally, don't quit.'" But she fell out three times, and as for the long program two days later, Brasseur skated three times. The quality of their athletic life, however, was enough to win them the bronze—Canada's first medal in the partnership since 1964. They are/were, after Brasseur and Natalia Mishkutenko of the United States, captured the gold with a near-flawless performance.

The Canadians' disappointment was palpable. "It's hard for us to hold our heads high when the way we skated," Eisler said. "We did get a medal, but we didn't skate like it doesn't leave a good feeling." He added, "I wish I could wake up. It was a dream I could go out and skate again." Unfortunately for Eisler and Brasseur, as well as for Browning, it was hard reality—and their dreams of skating gold in Albertville had been dashed.

Browning in his long program: 'If I'd had two more weeks'

ANDREW PHILLIPS in Albertville



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Winnipeg: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

#### Manitoba

Winnipeg: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Brandon: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Saskatoon: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Regina: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Lethbridge: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Medicine Hat: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Calgary: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

#### Ontario

Toronto: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Ottawa: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Hamilton: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
London: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Windsor: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Kitchener: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Guelph: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Quebec: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Montreal: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Sherbrooke: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Trois-Rivières: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Saguenay: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Baie d'Urfé: CBR 840 AM 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
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# The Mighty Have Fallen

OLYMPIC PRESSURE TAKES A SLIPPERY TOLL



Since Orser has returned to the Olympics as a journalist, Orser, the Olympic double silver medalist and former world champion who is now skating professionally, is covering figure skating for Maclean's at the 1992 Games in an exclusive column, the nature of *Postings*, then, Orser, describes the enormous pressures of performing on the Olympic stage. His report:

The Olympics is the ultimate high-performance situation. The intensity of the Games amplifies the emotional highs and lows for the athletes as well as the staff. To prepare for the event, many members of the Canadian figure skating team worked closely over the past season with sport psychologist Peter Jensen. The Olympics, said Jensen, "is the only event that I have ever been to that lives up to its billing." That proved to be the case last week, where skaters under pressure produced perfor-

mances that ranged from near-perfect to deeply disappointing. Canadian Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, despite a sub-par outing, did win a bronze in the pairs. But Canada's other figure skating medal hope, Kurt Browning, suffered an Olympic low, falling to sixth place in the men's event won by Ukrainian Viktor Petukhov on Saturday. And on a night when the skating was certainly not great, the judging was even worse than the skating.

There was no question in my mind that America's Paul Whyle, who won the silver, was the best in the long program, no matter what the judges said. He was extremely polished from start to finish, a total package, and he had the audience in the palm of his hand. So did Canada's Elton Sedyko, who finished seventh—he was completely robbed. He pulled out a performance that was worthy of the Olympics. It was the perfect example of rising to the occasion. It was also great judging.

As for Browning, my feeling all week, from the time he got off the plane to the second he finished skating, is that he did not have that

killer instinct. He is one of the best skaters in the world, there is no doubt about that. But he just was not himself. He had to deal with a tremendous amount of pressure—at stake were big-time bonuses from corporate sponsors, a huge burden to put on a skater. They face enough fires at the Olympics already, the fear of falling, the fear of stepping onto the ice while billions of people are watching.

And behind the scenes there are other problems, seemingly small things that can have a powerful impact. One of the skaters' main concerns in Albertville was the tiny backstage area. The space without the use of three living rooms combined, and it has to accommodate all the skaters, their coaches, team leaders and medical staff, as well as television crews. Another concern was the noise level. The backstage area was directly below metal seats where 9,000 fans were stomping their feet, especially for the French skaters.

During such an extreme time, focusing your attention is critical. The skaters have to be able to find space when they need it, whether it is in the boiler room or the bathroom room—some skaters say it can make their own. During the pre-Olympic figure skating event held in Albertville last November, Browning was preparing to go on to the ice when cables from television cameras wrapped around his legs and he was at the crowd celebration. As Kurt put it, "It was very agonizing."

However, that is not the worst that happened, when, even the pre-Olympic began, key mistakes occur. At those times, skaters tend to think "It's no good, the lousy." The athletes go through the basic stages of mourning. Initially, they are upset, angry, overwhelmed. Then, they come to some form of acceptance. The whole idea is to look for perspective to get away from the initial negative response and tell yourself, over and over, "It's one element in the program. I've had hundreds of lands on this jump. I've been skating clean run-throughs of

my program all year." It is a complex process that each athlete handles differently.

For Brasseur and Eisler, Isabella's fall on the side-by-side double Axel in the original program last week was a concern. He left the pair in third place, with 48 hours to recover before the final program. I spoke with Jensen about Brasseur's second start. Women skaters have a much harder job than the men, he said. They are, in his words, "the product of the end of the season." As a result, the women feel a lot more pressure—and that pressure tends to get channeled into one element. For most of the women in the pairs event, that element is the double Axel. During the first day, Brasseur got to the point where she began to feel, "All right, I know this, let's get on with it." By the next day, the day of the final program, the fight was back. The meaning of the free program, Peter asked her: "Did you feel something, did you get a touch with something?" She looked Peter in the eye and simply said yes.

But the pair had a rough time with their free program. Elder continued afterwards that the Olympics is much more stressful than the world championships. Knowing how well they can perform, I believe they felt victim to that overwhelming pressure—until she experienced it herself, words cannot explain the feeling of being gold medal contenders stepping onto the ice. On a positive note, Brasseur and Eisler can apply what they learned to their training over the next two years, heading to the Olympic Games in Norway in 1994. They indicated that they were seriously considering staying in Canada and then. And in time, perhaps, the idea of performing on Olympic medal will sink in.

Other Canadians had reason to be proud of their pure performances, as well. Christine Hough of Waterloo, Ont., and Doug Lodrig of

Kitchener, Ont., became one of the crowd favorites with a unusual and seductive original program. Their music, however, did not reflect that achievement, so the audience boomed. After their innovative ball program, the pair finished sixth overall. The third Canadian team, Kris Wirtz of La Prairie, Que., and Stacey Ball of Bloomington, Que., performed a perfect original program and a very good free program. Their 12th-place finish was a great showing for a young, talented team in their first Olympics.

Admittedly, Browning, however, making his second Olympic appearance, carried the heaviest crowd expectations. And he quickly lived the adversity of an early hit, missing his first jump in the original program, a triple Axel. He was visibly upset after that performance. At those moments, if you really know is that it happened and it happened first—once second the way you then suddenly you are down. Watching from the stands, I thought he may have done too many triple Axels during the amateur warm-up. Whatever the case, Browning, sitting in fourth place, faced an uphill battle to overtake the leader Petukhov. The next day, Browning still looked shaken at his practice sessions. "I feel like I was beaten up last night," he said. And in the long program on Saturday, he could not recover his championship form.

However, Sedyko, from Richmond Hill, Ont., was superb, and Michael Slagshak, from Edmonston, made a strong sixth place showing despite pulled muscles in his shoulder and wrist. The skating action continues this week when Isabelle and Paul Duchesneau, the Quebec-based brother-and-sister team now representing France, go for ice-dancing gold.

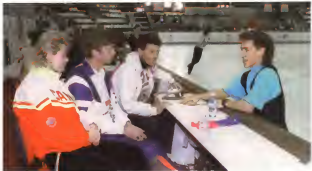
**Psychologist Peter Jensen** (second from left) with coaches Michelle and Doug Leigh, and Sedyko intensely

before the home French crowd. I know how they feel, being competing in Calgary in the 1988 Games. Last year, Paul Dorey, who asked me what it was like skating in your home country. My only reply was "Just enjoy every minute of it." The key is to

channel all your extra energy in a positive way to keep focused on the job at hand. Later this week, the women skaters will focus on their own come competition. The main contenders are Americans Kristi Yamaguchi, Tracy Shand and Nancy Kerrigan, along with Jewell's Mother Bi Canadian champion Karen Preston, competing in her first Olympics, will be trying to crack the Top 10.

A few hours before the men's short program on Feb. 13, I sat with Brian Bortone and discussed what each of us had been doing four years ago—before the month-long Battle of the House. Bortone said that, while riding the bus to Calgary's Saddledome for the short program, he was so nervous that he was shaking inside. He remembers doing meditation exercises to help him relax. When that failed, he came to the conclusion that the jittery feeling just might help his reflexes to be a little quicker. While Bortone was trying to relax, I was walking around McMahon Stadium looking at the Olympic field, which for me was an inspiration. From there, I went by bus to the dome, staring out the window watching my program and repeating the jump combinations over and over in my head.

Now, it was four years later, and another group of skaters were preparing in their own ways for their big moment. But Bortone and I were overwhelmed with the fact that our own was ending—and a new one was beginning. C



Browning (left) and Brasseur: at Albertville, skaters' performances ranged from near-perfect to deeply disappointing





THE WINTER GAMES

#### Oleg Erskov of the United Team of the former Soviet states: mixed feelings

police, the State, just before the 1990 World Cup. In 1989, it was the last thing that German officials—now to promote the team as a symbol of their newly united country—could have wanted. Fortunately for them, Canada's teammates were in a generous mood, and last week they successfully missed that he be allowed to compete anyway. "One must be prepared to forgive," said Klaus Rottger, head of Germany's national federation.

For many athletes, political upheavals made concentrating on sports virtually impossible. Guzman, the Czech skater, has won 17 international figure skating championships seven years in a row. Aside from the distraction of war, he did not know until Jan. 17, when the International Olympic Committee accepted Guzman and Shumakov as full members, that his new country would be allowed to send a team to Albertville. "You can't focus, you can't train, you can't be happy," he says. "It's terrible to be the first Soviet year country and to be surprised." Others had good reasons to be grateful. Laila Kiseva, an 18-year-old figure skater from Slovakia, acknowledged that he would not have made it to the Games if he had not been sent to Germany for a single spot on a Yugoslav team. "No way I would be here," he

admitted with a broad smile after a practice session at Albertville's ice hall. "For an independent country, it was just a gift."

For Jean Riquarts of Latvia, independence was mixed blessing. Riquarts joined the Soviet national team in a gold medal in the two-man event at the Calgary Winter Games four years ago. Last week, as pilot of the new Latvian team, the 34-year-old Riquarts was in the Alpine resort town of La Plagne, where the Olympic bobsled and luge athletes—collectively known as "sliders"—had their headquarters. Virtually all the Soviet Union's top bobsledders were Latvians, he explained, but they were forbidden in the past to advertise their nationality. Still, they managed to do it in a subtle way. In Calgary, they painted their bobsleds the dark red that is the national color of Latvia, instead of the lighter Soviet red. "We always were competing for Latvia," said Riquarts.

"Now we can do it openly." Machines: Not everything was as promising for Riquarts and his teammates. Of course, they no longer had 160 sliders watching over them as they did in Calgary. But last year's political revolution prevented the Latvians from competing internationally and disrupted their training, and Riquarts acknowledged that they will be hard-pressed to repeat their gold-medal performance this week as it happened. Riquarts was eventually knocked out of the two-man competition with a skewed left muscle. In any case, being part of the Soviet sports machine did have its advantages. Soviet athletes never had to worry about paying for travel, buying uniforms or finding sponsors.

In contrast, members of the Latvian Olympic squad had to dismount their own bikes, leaving and figuring out how to pay their bills. Some of the bobsled team's money came from Canada's Latvian community and Canadian businessmen sympathetic to their cause. Riquarts and his fellow bobsledders, spotted black-and-purple uniforms paid for by Canadian Agri Corp., an

agricultural management company based in Kitchener, Ont., that does extensive work in Latvia. A Calgary businessman with Latvian origins, Denis Makins, rushed the uniforms to La Plagne just in time for the Games.

The largest teams were found in the United Team. Many still wore medals bearing the now obsolete COC/CAF/hammer-and-sickle logo that they were just as likely to turn up in sweat suits advertising Adidas, the German sports wear maker that helped to pay the team's way to Albertville. Even Russian athletes who were gold medals awarded to a Latvian who won the five-man Olympic flag was hoisted during the medal ceremony. "It was great to win the gold," said Lyudmila Egorenova, who was the 15-ton women's cross-country race for the United Team. "But it's sad that we didn't have our own flag and anthem."

Others said they worried that the quality maintained by the disciplined Soviet sports machine will crumble like the country itself. Tatyana Medvedeva, who coached the gold-medal-winning figure skating pair of Arina Zaitseva and Natalia Makhtanova, and the feared that Russia's economy could well come if it possible for the nation's skaters to travel to international competitions. Arina from Moscow to the United States, she noted, jumped from 4,000 to 96,000 rubles (or about \$40 to \$600) on Jan. 2. "Somehow the money will be found," said Medvedeva. "But if you have no money for sponsoring our skaters, we'll be delighted to have the athletes." In fact, it is the attraction of Western money that may well break up what is left of the old Soviet sports empire. A dozen members of the United Team's hockey squad have been drafted by National Hockey League teams. And Medvedeva herself was busy behind the scenes in Albertville last week—talking to agents about an American tour for Zaitseva and Makhtanova.

ANDREW PHILLIPS is in La Plagne

# A New Sports Order

IT IS HARD TO TELL THE PLAYERS WITHOUT AN ATLAS



Getting to the Olympics is tough for any athlete, but 13-year-old Russian Guzman had to overcome more than his share of obstacles. Guzman, Croatia's top male figure skater, should have been summoned in training last fall for the Winter Games in Albertville. But instead of collecting his double Axels and triple toe loops, Guzman found himself in a cafeteria pouring an army barracks in Zagreb, his home town, against a possible attack by Yugoslav soldiers. And there was war. When Zagreb was blockaded for several weeks, power was out in the area where Communist justices—and the ice melted. But when he carried his new country's flag

at the Games' opening ceremony on Feb. 8, that was all forgotten. "To say it was wonderful doesn't express the feeling," he said quietly. "For us this isn't just sport—it's history." Not only the Croatians were making history at the Albertville Games last week. The new world order in international sports was on display at the first post-Cold War Olympics. Croats and Slovenians, who once competed for Yugoslavia, proudly took part for the first time under their own flag. And athletes from the Baltic states—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia—no longer battled for the glory of the now-defunct Soviet Union. They were the delegates of the Games, masters even if they failed to capture a single medal. For the Russians, Ukrainians and others competing as the United Team of the former Soviet Union, however,

feelings were decidedly more mixed. No longer were they ambassadors of the world's most successful sports machine, which captured 1,600 Olympic medals since 1952. Instead, without a flag, a national anthem and in some cases even proper team uniforms, they feared that they were regarded with a blend of sympathy and condescension—and many of them did not like it. "You would think we were charity cases," grumbled Nikita Shukov, the team's leader. "It's hard to swallow."

The German team, competing under their flag for the first time since the 1936 Berlin Olympics, had some awkward moments as well. A day before the Albertville Games opened, a member of their bobsled team named Harald Coudaj confessed that he had spent on fellow athletes for the old East German secret

## HYPHENATED HOCKEY

German athletes to leave, searching for an identity problem. "I'm a Canadian who lives in the United States and coaches the Italian hockey team in the Olympics," he said with a laugh last week. "I'm not the only one whose old and new identities raise questions." Fearless of the 23 members of the Italian hockey squad competing last week at the Winter Games were born in Canada. So were six members of the French team, five Swiss players and five of the German team—including their star goalie, St. Francis of Wimpere. Spectators at the Olympic hockey arena in the town of Albertville did not seem to care as they cheered on their teams with Italian, German and Swiss flags. But down on the ice, asked Ulfers,

"We're all saying, 'Who's a goalie, eh?'" Most of the Canadian quality for other national teams by having taken to those countries. Those on the Italian team have Italian parents or grandparents and have played for that country's league for several years. Forward Zimola Ivano, 29, was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., but in his eighth season with the Italian national team after playing on minor teams in Hamilton and Niagara Falls. "I grew up in an Italian family with two girls and everything," he said last week just after the Italian crushed the Polish team 7-1. "Maybe I was born in Canada, but I'm an Italian." When he sees his parents, however, "I tell them they want to Canada to find work, and I want them to stay for the same reason."

On the ice and in the dressing room, Italian coaches say, they speak a mixture of Italian and English. Ulfers, however, never learned to speak Italian well as he was growing up in St. John's, Nfld. "For my parents, it was

Canadian, Canada, Canada," recalled Ulfers, who coached the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1985 and 1989. "So I talk in English and my assistant coaches say it in Italian and I understand it." Ulfers said that some of the 23 Italian-born players don't speak any national language. Italian hockey officials and fans, who would prefer to see more Canadian-born players. "We have to take the best players to be competitive," said Ulfers. "But we have to take the best players and the best players are the best." The Italian-born players think, say that having Canadian on so many Olympic teams causes no problems for them. And the Canadian imports assure that, despite the obvious unfairness, the possibility of facing off against the official Canadian team would be a challenge. "I don't care. They are the Olympics. It's just athletes against athletes."

A. P. in Milan



# TO LIVE OR DIE

## DOCTORS AND LEGISLATORS STRUGGLE WITH THE ETHICS OF EUTHANASIA

The mood of the 25-year-old woman was still very much alive—but enigmatic at a body that was all but dead. In the 2½ years since a progressively debilitating disease left Nancy B. paralysed from the neck down, her life had fallen into a morose, lonely, depressing routine. The nurses would arrive in her Quebec City hospital room promptly at 9 a.m. to bathe and change her soiled linens. As they worked, Nancy could only converse in a raspy whisper about the relentless loss of her respiratory. Then, in November, Nancy B. attracted national attention when her lawyer petitioned the Quebec Superior Court to grant her patient her beneficent wish, so that her life-support system be turned off so that she could die. On Jan. 6, the court agreed. For more than three months, the woman weighed the onerous choice that was left alone to make; commentators in obituary. Last week, like a capably growing number of Canadians who are rejecting the prospect of a painful, lingering demise, Nancy B. chose death.

On the morning of Feb. 13, Nancy B.'s doctors made sure that she was heavily sedated. Gathered at the hospital room were her mother and father, a brother and her two sisters, one of whom was her twin. (Macdonald's attended to the wishes of the family members that their last name not be used.) There were also doctors present. At 10 a.m., under the authority granted to her by the court order, Dr. Danielle Marcotte, Nancy B.'s principal physician, turned off the machinery that had kept her patient alive for so long. She died some minutes later, ending a long legal and bioethical drama that had consumed the interest and



concern of thousands of Canadians (page 56). The case also focused attention on the debate over the rights of individuals to choose the time and manner of their own deaths—and on evidence that suggests that some Canadian doctors are collaborating with patients and their families to end the lives of terminally ill Canadians.

At the same time, legislators, doctors and hospital administrators across Canada are at-

tempting to combine the shifting ethics surrounding death in new laws and practices that could result eventually in a wide acceptance of mercy killing in Canada. In the debate over whether euthanasia should be legalized, supporters—old opponents—of mercy killing both point to the Netherlands, where doctors help thousands of terminally ill patients to die each year (page 48).

In the United States, a growing right-to-die

movement has been spearheaded by the Euthanasia, Oral-Bran National Humankind Society and its controversial founder Dennis Williams, whose book, *Final Exit*, which provides information and advice on how to commit suicide for the terminally ill, has sold more than 500,000 copies in the United States and Canada since it was published in May 1991. The issue attracted more attention in October, when Michigan physician Jack Kevorkian used carbon monoxide

gas and lethal drugs to help two chronically ill women to die. His actions led to a lively debate on euthanasia—and a criminal investigation. Early this month, a grand jury indicted Kevorkian on two counts of murder in connection with the deaths of the two women. The startling growth of a pro-euthanasia lobby in Canada is reflected in the hectic pace of activity in a suite of modest offices near downtown Toronto, where former nurse Marylynne Segun presides over Dying With Dignity. Since its creation in 1980 to support voluntary euthanasia and reform success by the elderly, infirm and the chronically ill, the group has attracted 6,500 members across Canada. Segun, who is widely respected for her work across Canada, is often called in by the families of terminally ill patients to negotiate with doctors and hospitals. "I think that it was very important for Nancy B. to proceed this way. She showed a great generosity in spirit because she wanted to protect her doctor from legal action."

**Choice:** In Victoria, John Hilsbos leads another organization dedicated to giving people a choice over how they die. He is, in a particular, one of the 1,100 member Right To Die Society of Canada, which he says has been growing at the rate of almost eight new members a day since it was established last September. The organization's board includes the Hilsbos family's Humphry. "There should be special places where people can go when they want to die," says Hilsbos, who advocates the establishment of hospices where terminally ill patients can choose the time and circumstances of their death.

The fight to determine what rights individuals should have over their own lives has also triggered a series of proposed new laws at both the provincial and federal levels. Those measures could radically alter how people die in Canada. In Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario,

politicians and law reform agencies are considering legislation that would legalize health-care directives (documents that indicate what medical procedures a gravely ill person would accept or refuse) and the appointment of health-care proxies (people named to act on behalf of terminally ill patients).

Said Gerald Robertson, a professor at the University of Alberta in Edmonton who helped draft the Alberta proposals: "There is a growing concern on the part of many people that they do not have sufficient control over the end stages of their lives." Added Robertson: "When the individual of sound mind and the health-care directive is clear, the directions must be followed."

Still, the terms of some

living wills could call on doctors to take steps that are now disallowed, such as administering so much morphine to suppress pain that the dosage could prove fatal. Under the Criminal Code, it is illegal for a doctor to induce death in a patient. But in October early this month, a parliamentary committee met to hear expert witnesses testify about the necessity of Bill C-263, a private member's bill that would in effect make it clear that it is not illegal to withhold medical treatment from a terminally ill patient. Under the proposed legislation, a doctor would no longer be charged if he administered drugs strong enough to control pain in a terminally ill patient, even if the drugs led to the patient's death. Said the bill's sponsor, Robert Weir, Conservative MP for the B.C. riding of Fraser Valley West: "We want to decriminalize the process of dying by making death a process of health care. We must eliminate the threat of criminal charges that are hanging over the heads of doctors."

But while politicians consider changes in the law, other Canadians are quietly making their own decisions about death. Leslie Taiter of Peterborough, Ont., 126 km northwest of Toronto, lived with a diagnosis last March, as cancer of the breast, which had spread to the liver, slowly killed his wife. Taiter and his wife, Jean, 58, had led a full life, and when he retired from his job as a printer, they discussed what they would do if death became a reality. If he said the words of three minutes and up as his bodies or their only son, Derek, a security officer, or endure a long, painful death. Taiter said that when death drew near, his wife's doctors agreed with their request to forgo further treatment. Two days later, on March 25, the day after the couple's 38th wedding anniversary, Taiter was beside his wife, holding her hand, as her eyes closed and she slid into death. Said Taiter: "I have no regrets. It was something we had talked about. For just

glad the doctors co-operated with us."

### Mercy: end of a gray business and legal drama

Last summer, as elderly Toronto couple made an equally chilling decision, according to their daughter, Andrea Miller, a 30-year-old Toronto television researcher. Miller said that about five years ago, her parents called her to their comfortable house in Toronto's wealthy Forest Hill neighborhood. In their and precise language, her father, C. E. Campbell, and her mother, Jean, told her that if their health deteriorated to the point where life became a struggle, they would consent to die rather than face a long, painful death involving growing incompetence as pain "I hoped that they would die peacefully in their sleep," said Miller. "But they





had led a wonderful life and I understood."

Then on July 31, 1994, when requested to leave his father's home, the nurse was unimpressed, she said that she feared the worst. "It was awful. There was a great wall," revealed Miller. She went to her parents' house, where she found her father, who was 87 at the time, and her mother, 84, died from heart overexertion. She said that her father had read *Final Exit* and had given one of the suicide methods described in it. Miller added that her father left behind a letter clearly stating that the couple's decision to take their own lives after living together for 59 years was their own, and that their children played no part in these deaths. "They looked very peaceful and were lying side by side," said Miller. "I couldn't imagine one without the other."

**Shift:** Among Canadians, the shift in public opinion towards the acceptance of personal choice on the issue of death appears to be advancing as rapidly as the ability of medical science to prolong life. According to a Gallup poll conducted in November, 1993, 75 per cent of the Canadians surveyed said that competent doctors should be allowed to carry out mercy killing. Don Chapman, 66, of Vancouver, says that euthanasia by suicide would be preferable to a slow, painful death. "I would do it as soon as I was diagnosed [as having a fatal illness]," said Chapman. "I know what pills to take and I know how to use a syringe."

The rapid growth in Dying With Dignity's membership also reflects a desire by some Canadians to have control over their own deaths. Seguin launched and ran Dying With Dignity out of her own home in Toronto in 1989. But late last year, with the organization's membership rapidly increasing, she moved into a main building. Seguin, who speaks in the quiet, measured tones of someone who regularly deals to the grimly ill, runs her operation in highly in any medical research. Two staff members are employed as administrators, and in the group's library the words "right to die" and "right to life" are kept from the floor of almost every book.

Seguin launched Dying With Dignity with four other people after she underwent a personal conversion. As a nurse working in a Toronto hospital during the 1970s, she said that she often felt bereft as she struggled to save the lives of patients. But one of her last



Seguin: a patient's pleading changed her life

case, involving a young man who had broken his neck in a diving accident, changed her views—and her life. After she struggled to keep him comforted alone, she, contrary to what she had been told, "I understand him why I was doing this," recalled

Seguin. "In the end, I decided I had not been so brave after all."

When the patient died three years later, Seguin said that she started to think about why so many tortured people were being kept alive against their wishes. She said that she decided that it would be better to help them to die peacefully. Seguin added that she also believes that healthy elderly people have the right to take their own lives if they choose to later in life. She received a letter from a wealthy 85-year-old Toronto woman—"Margaret"—wounded with her in her rose garden and later attended a concert with her. Seguin said that her role was to help Margaret decide whether she really wanted to commit suicide and to support her. A few weeks later, the woman died following an overdose of sleeping pills. Said Seguin, "Margaret was fully alive and alert, but she had accomplished all the business of her life. She made a calm, rational decision to stay in control to the end."

While politicians and doctors are sharply divided over the question of euthanasia, there is compelling evidence that many physicians are already caring the suffering of terminally ill patients by administering overdoses of drugs such as morphine. Elsewhere this month, a doctor in the Northern Ontario city of Timmins, Alvin de Roche, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder in the death of Mary Graham, 68, who had been undergoing cancer treatment. Police said that the woman had suddenly on Oct. 15, 1994, "fell against cardio-

ac arrest after being administered a quantity of morphine and potassium chloride." That seemingly isolated incident attracted the attention of police. Then in Ottawa, Mr. Phoenix said that testimony before his parliamentary committee suggested that it is increasingly common for doctors to end the lives of terminally ill patients. Said Watson: "We have had several doctors who work in palliative care [hospitals] and BCL [C-68] seems to legitimize common practice."

Said Watson, the bill is a way to bring to a head through Parliament to protect doctors from prosecution in the deaths of terminally ill patients would not open the door to widespread legal euthanasia. But critics of the bill claimed that it would indeed legitimize mercy killing. Said Eike-Henner Kluge, a professor of ethics at the University of Victoria who until last year was director of the Canadian Medical Association's legal and ethical affairs department: "If a majority of doctors, this would allow for active euthanasia."

But right-to-life advocates say that Watson's bill would simply make it easier for doctors and hospitals to agree when a patient is to be removed from a life support system. In the case of Nancy B., both officials of Quebec City's 1500-Duquesne hospital and her doctor, Marcia, refused to disconnect her respirator before the court hearing for fear of being prosecuted.

**Right:** For his part, Kluge said that the decision by Superior Court Justice Jacques Dufour in the Nancy B. case went a long way towards upholding the argument that individuals have the right to control their own lives, even if their decision results in death. Kluge pointed out that Dufour decided in his ruling that "a doctor should be held liable and accused of criminal conduct and criminal negligence for respecting the patient's right to self-determination."

Defending his decision, Dufour said that he had weighed the rights of the individual against the requirements of the Criminal Code and arguments that the death of Nancy B. would amount to outright blackmail. Indeed, he ruled that a patient's refusal of medical treatment does not breach the Criminal Code, even if it results in death. He also ruled that the Criminal Code does not require a doctor to administer treatment against a patient's wishes.

Said Nancy B.'s lawyer, Anne Lapointe of Quebec City: "What the judge said is that 'this is the case of death, not the treatment.'"

Officials with Dying With Dignity are divided on whether they support Watson's bill with its narrow amendments, but the Right to Die Society said that the bill is too open to misinterpretation and that they wanted it redrafted to make it



Justice Dufour: a landmark decision on a patient's right to refuse treatment

more effective. For his part, Chris Atkinson, the New Democratic Party's top Saskatchewan legislator, who recently won his province's seat on euthanasia dropped, said Canada's laws must reflect the new demands for the right to the *Stat Amarty*. Seventy-five per cent of the population says that "I

table." I have worked with 400 terminal cases and only two have asked to die," he said.

Said Seguin, and that while the medical profession's ability to control pain has come a long way, some doctors still allow patients to suffer excruciating pain—either because they are ignorant of pain-control technology, or because they are afraid that they will be charged if they kill a patient with overdoses of a powerful drug. Said Seguin: "I was involved in a case where I could have sat across two hours away from his home. But the doctor would not give him enough morphine to kill the pain because he was afraid it might kill the patient. He died in agony."

According to Kluge, many Canadians do not really understand what the terminally ill, and people who want the right to control their own deaths, are really demanding. Patients like Nancy B., said Kluge, do not want to spend years hooked up to machines and fed powerful painkilling drugs. He added: "The question is not of drugs. People simply do not want to be that way." In the end, Nancy B., who told Dufour that she could no longer tolerate being stretched in a machine, may have achieved a growing number of Canadians who believe that children in particular are artificially and painfully prolonged life.

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## A DEBATABLE SOLUTION

In the debate over whether euthanasia should be made legal, there are few precedents on which to build proposed new laws. Currently, use of the few countries in which mercy killing is considered acceptable medical treatment, under certain conditions, is the Netherlands. Although it is a crime to deliberately kill a patient under Dutch law, the practice is tolerated under an agreement between the Royal Dutch and the Medical Society and the federal prosecutor's office. And even given the agreement, a Dutch patient must make repeated requests to die, and must be suffering from an incurable mental or physical illness, before

a request for euthanasia is likely to be granted. As well, five doctors must agree before the procedure is carried out. If all the requirements are met, the patient is given barbiturates to induce sleep, followed by an injection of cyanide, a lethal poison.

In Canada, advocates of the right to die and some doctors are not as strict about the procedures as they are in the Netherlands. Kluge, an ethics professor at the University of Victoria, travelled to the Netherlands three years ago to study the Dutch system for the Canadian Medical Association. He said that during his investigation, he found no evidence that the system was being abused. He added that Dutch medical officials put less than the currently accepted procedures, between 2,000 and 3,000 people die as the result of voluntary euthanasia in the Netherlands each year.

Said, either Canadian doctors who have stud-

ied a new report on the Dutch experience with euthanasia say that the number of patients being killed is much higher than official statistics, and they contend that some patients have been killed without their consent. In a 1993 report, a Dutch governmental committee said that it found 1,000 instances in which 26,000 were euthanasia in 1993 in which there was no explicit request by the patient. The Kluge, compiled by the Dutch Institute for Social Health Care, did not specify the medical conditions of the patients whose lives ended in what is called "active medical euthanasia." Such medical conclusions about the Dutch experience with euthanasia may only complicate the rhetorical debate in Canada.

T. E.

Kluge: people have the right to control their fate





# THE LAST GOODBYE

## NANCY B. EXERCISES HER RIGHT TO DIE

She died quickly and quietly, in precisely the manner she wanted. Her family was by her side, surrounded by the grace-house hospital in the old quarters of Quebec City where she had spent the past 26 years of her life. Her mother and father peered, while her brother and two sisters—one of them her twin—looked on. Shortly before 10 a.m., her doctor and an anesthesiologist entered the room. A final sedative was administered and, at 10, the respirator that kept her alive was disconnected. Seven minutes later, the woman known to Canadians as Nancy B. was dead.

The death of the 26-year-old quadriplegic, paralysed from the neck down as the result of a rare neurologic condition, brought to an end a legal and emotional struggle that attracted national attention—as well as that of much of the world. Deepening of sedation she found hopeless, Nancy B. launched a court action to win the right to have the plug pulled from the respirator upon which her life depended. On Jan. 8, she won that fight when Justice Jacques Dubeau of the Quebec Superior Court ruled in a landmark decision that a patient does not have the right to refuse medical treatment—even if death is the result. On Feb. 5, the 30-day appeal period expired. "She made the decision she had to make," said Quebec City lawyer Anne Lapointe, who represented Nancy B. in her legal battles. "It was her choice. It was her life."

Despite the young woman's widely publicized intention, however, the rest of the family did arrive, raised, some in tears. It occurred on the eve of Quebec City's winter carnival, an herald of merrymaking descended on the snowbound provincial capital to participate in the season's most festive. Their half-sister, who had been told that Nancy B. herself might be leaving several months ago, had celebrated Christmas with her family and had received a few visitors, among them Quebec actor Jean Duceau, who reported finding Nancy B. a good person. Administrators at the Hôtel-Dieu were discussing plans to move her out of the intensive-care ward into more pleasant surroundings. And Nancy B. had received thousands of letters from around the world, some of them urging her to remain alive. Even Duceau was moved to observe late last month that he was "hoping against hope" never to see his half-sister acted upon in Nancy B.'s case.

Those hopes were dashed on Feb. 13 when hospital spokesmen issued a brief statement: "Hôtel-Dieu of Quebec City confirms the death of Nancy B. this morning, following her wishes." The statement added: "The family re-



Quebec City lawyer Lapointe: "She made the decision she had to make."

quests, given the circumstances, the most complete decision." Nancy B.'s doctor, Dr. Lucie Marcoux, advised reporters, but said members at the Hôtel-Dieu confirmed that Marcoux had personally disconnected Nancy B.'s respirator. The young woman apparently did not suffer, having been heavily sedated at the time. Her family, who have made no comment outside of court throughout the case and, after, remained silent, either then to reiterate through hospital spokesmen the long-standing request to the media not to make public their daughter's last days. Even Nancy B.'s lawyers, who were not consulted until after the ordeal had finally concluded, An Lapointe remarked last week: "I suppose I was a little shocked when I first heard the news."

**Dramatic:** Clearly, Nancy B. had not altered her opinion after she decided to embark on a court battle to win the right to die at the time of her own choosing, she had signalled her desire to terminate the ordeal. Twice, she stopped hunger strikes in an attempt to force the authorities at the hospital to respect her request. It was not until the courts intervened that Nancy B. finally succeeded. Not all Canadians will agree with that legal precedent or with her choice. But we can dispute the courage she demonstrated in making it.

Nancy B.'s condition resulted from the onset of Guillain-Barre syndrome, a neurological disorder that attacks the nervous system and

paralyzes muscles, making breathing impossible without a respirator. During her legal struggle, doctors testified that, although many people recover from Guillain-Barre syndrome, the form attacking Nancy B. was irreversible and was virtually certain to render her bedridden for the rest of her life. At the time of her death, she was unable to move any part of her body below her neck.

After personally observing Nancy B.'s condition as a *Nouvelles* reporter, Duceau told the young woman: "I have been lucky to meet you and I hope to tell you that a will be more difficult for me to make a decision now than I have met you. I wish you well, and I wish change your mind the court will be very happy."

In the end, however, she decided to hang in a confined as mother: that she found unbearable. Days before deciding to embark on a court battle to win the right to die at the time of her own choosing, she had signalled her desire to terminate the ordeal. Twice, she stopped hunger strikes in an attempt to force the authorities at the hospital to respect her request. It was not until the courts intervened that Nancy B. finally succeeded. Not all Canadians will agree with that legal precedent or with her choice. But we can dispute the courage she demonstrated in making it.

BARRY CAME in Quebec City



Ex-journalist John Hobbes at home in Victoria: "I had to do something."

## TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION

### A WRITER CAMPAIGNS FOR CHOICE

Disabling diseases and prolonged suffering had eroded their will to live. But death by natural causes appeared to be only a distant prospect. On a December night in 1990, Charles LeMay, 67, and his 60-year-old wife, Margie, met, strapped themselves together with a belt and jumped from a 10th-story apartment in Victoria. LeMay, a former Vancouver firefighter, was suffering from cancer, heart problems, falling eyesight and chronic headaches. His wife, who was also losing her sight, suffered from advanced osteoporosis—a painful and crippling deterioration of the bones. Their double suicide went almost unnoticed by the media and the general public. But it made a lasting impression on John Hobbes, a writer who had just a \$50,000-a-year public relations job in Toronto and moved to Victoria in November, 1989, to care for hisiling 50-year-old mother, Gladys. Hobbes said the first part outside of the LeMays inspired him to focus the rights to the Society of Canada, to lobby for the legalization of suicide under by another individual and for physician-assisted death. "I decided it wasn't enough to write about this

issue," said Hobbes. "I had to do something."

The 50-year-old Hobbes, who has written for numerous American and Canadian publications, including *Maclean's* from 1973 to 1975, said that he is prepared to devote at least a decade to a campaign to change Canada's Criminal Code and curb euthanasia legal. He has the support of a group of high-profile advocates including B.C. vice-regal Sir Robert, Saskatchewan's vice-regal Christopher Anwerth and Derek Humphry, founder of the \$7,000-member National Hemlock Society, a Eugene, Ore.-based organization that aggressively promotes the individual's right to die. Derek Humphry, who advised Nancy B. to her husband's conviction in Victoria last September: "We thoroughly support Hobbes because he is an one-of-a-kind. You've got to fight for what you believe in."

According to Hobbes, his first challenge is to turn the declining 1,300-member right to die Society into an effective national lobbying organization. But he concedes that his society will be competing for members with Toronto-based Dying With Dignity, which was founded in 1986 and currently has 6,500 members

across the country. That organization's executive director, Marilyn Segen, said that it solicits individuals having the right to choose to die, but takes a different approach and uses different tactics than right to die. She said that its legislative changes aimed at making euthanasia legal must be acceptable to the broadest spectrum of the Canadian public, not just pro-euthanasia advocates. She added that the organization would support physician-assisted suicide only if the law contained strong safeguards to protect doctors and ensured that patients genuinely wanted to end their lives. As well, she said that it has worked extensively with the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Bar Association and other professional groups that have attempted to develop policies on euthanasia.

But Hobbes maintains that Canadian advocates of euthanasia must be more aggressive, and that they need a stronger voice if they hope to achieve their goals. He added that his group, which he decided to form his own organization, called Humphry for his name. Hobbes said that he was astonished to learn that almost 1,000 Canadians belonged to the Hemlock Society, and many of those wanted Humphry to transport to Canada. Hobbes' group about \$300,000 annually on political campaigns in various states aimed at legitimizing doctor-assisted suicide. Seal Humphry: "There have been constant demands by Canadians to have a Hemlock Society in Canada. We've always said to be because we have enough to do here."

Although his organization is barely six months old, Hobbes is quickly distinguishing it from Dying With Dignity. On Nov. 7, he and Scott Wilson, a retired Victoria doctor who supports euthanasia, appeared before a special parliamentary committee in Ottawa to comment on a private member's bill introduced by B.C. Conservative M.P. Robert Weir. The bill would allow patients to refuse medical treatment and let doctors withhold treatment from terminally ill patients. While supporting the measure, Hobbes and Wilson also stated that much stronger and clearer legislation was required to protect the rights of the dying. Added Hobbes: "Dying With Dignity supports the bill unreservedly, which we regard as politically and legally naive."

But, Canada's senior, pro-euthanasia advocates worry that his real adversary is to die Society's medical profession. Hobbes said that many doctors oppose their effort to extend life, regardless of the patient's suffering or quality of life. Said Hobbes: "The medical profession has not come to grips with the fact that people who live with chronic pain are in pain. They want to be known: 'diagnosed.' And Right to Die seems determined to see that legislation is heard."

BY JERRY JENSEN



# A report from space

Astronaut Roberta Bondar recalls her unearthly adventures

Roberta Bondar, the second Canadian astronaut and the first Canadian woman to travel in space, emerged last week from 11 grueling days of postflight tests and debriefings at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The 46-year-old Sask. Sl. Mom, Out native, a neurologist, conducted some of the 62 scientific experiments in the shuttle *Discovery's* cramped lab during the mission from July 22 to 30. Among other things, she took a a rotating chair in an exercise designed to measure effects of weightlessness on the body, counted the speed of crystals in astronauts' backs that cause painful muscle spasms and backaches and measured the effect of gravity on the growth of fertilized frog eggs. Speaking to *Maclean's* Washington correspondent Hilary MacKenzie and with *Maclean's* acknowledged that, at left, she and her colleagues were thinking about the January 1986 explosion of the shuttle *Challenger* that led all seven astronauts' missions after left-off Bondar's report.

**Y**ou must have to think positively. We flew in January after the anniversary of the *Challenger* accident. We didn't make a big deal of it, but we remembered it on the launch pad. I was cheering when the solid rocket boosters separated from the orbiter. We had passed one of the dangerous milestones. It is, after all, an experimental system that has to perform in 80 minutes. And for that 80 minutes, we had spent hours training, going through the dynamics of the ascent. There were times after the *Challenger* tragedy when I thought of giving up. I asked myself regularly if I was doing the right thing. Was this the way I wanted to live my life? And then each time a shuttle went up I thought, "You must come to the pad." As cosmonauts and on the previous crew, we had worked together over three years. For so many months, we had done both



Bondar at work. 'I didn't mess up'

out training. Our lives depended on one another—there was a bond there. We may have had disagreements, but the wages of love when someone fails. It is a tightly knit group and there is a tight bond. We respect one another's strengths and weaknesses. I consider the orbiter ours. They are really good friends and pals.

As we orbited over Canada, my cosmonauts said, "We're going over Canada—Saskia. It is awe-inspiring and awe-inspiring." But the story brought out the beauty. It gave it different dimensions. The rivers were clearer because of the ice. The first time we passed over, I was going by a tape of O Canada sung by a policeman in the Sea. It was a pre-shy time and I had the neighbors on. It was marvelous—better than watching someone at the Olympics get the gold medal and see the Canadian flag go up.

My father died two months before the *Challenger* accident and I had memories from him in my personal log. From my dad. That's

the way shortcuts on it, which I had given him when I joined the Canadian Space Program. From my mom, a jacket that belonged to my great-grandmother. I had tapes—a tape for every mood. Tommy Hunter did not a tape, Anne Murray prepared a personal tape, my aunt played the piano. I had a tape of the Gipsy Kings' come songs and the music of Quebec singer Germaine Auro. I played Boris Yelstin's *Prokofiev* when I could look at Earth and felt before going to bed.

The feeling I had about the country as I passed over it was that I have touched that place—these people know that I'm going over and are thinking good thoughts. I don't like the whole business of separation. My view is that people should stop talking about separation and get on with building the country. We don't have the resources to spend on the space. We have to pull together. When you see Earth from space, it is small. It is a planet to explore. I thought it's time to come back to a strong country and be talking about the real issues of unity, not division. I feel we've got to pull together. People need to understand what the whole country is about. We shouldn't be bound by the cynicism between provinces. I'm proud to be Canadian. We don't need division and division.

When I looked at Canada, I never thought of a piece of the earth being separate. It was borderless, a continuous from sea to sea. There were no bars on the map or street signs up. I saw it as a united part, and I felt proud. The most thrilling moment was looking at Earth. We can simulate floating, simulate science and see the ISSA moves, but we can't simulate looking at Earth. It comes at you out of the back window. I saw the moon rise and set, the sun rise and set within minutes. It is the dynamics of Earth from space that you can't appreciate from the training or the photos. The

science was great and you could back with a successful feeling, but the special part is seeing Earth. You can do science anywhere. Obviously, it's a tremendous challenge to do it in space.

It would be pretty dull if one had to tolerate rules in one's life. I feel the chance that I have made were not put upon me—no one put a gun to my head. But the most thing I've noticed as a woman is that we haven't got the free-flying, easygoing network that men have. I feel I've had a hard time. People have had preconceived ideas of what I should do as a woman—preconceived ideas of my potential, of my behavior and of my contribution. That has been the limiting factor.

The sexual attitude among men people is that women are not physically capable of being in space or that they are too emotional. If they are capable and are seen to function like men, then they are labeled as aggressive. I find that offensive. That, for me, is the

hardest thing for women to deal with. In my life, it has not been a question of sacrifice, it is rather the hardships I have had to endure. But I'm just going through life, going through one adventure after another. And it's not included sacrifice and a family, like I love children, and I am not very male. I feel we boys in the last three years that if I had had a pet the Humane Society would have been after me. If I had had a husband a family, I don't know how I would have coped. I didn't get up and have around me and I wouldn't say that this life is for everyone. You have to enjoy life, and if being a biological parent is important, then you should do it.

If you are a professional and have a family, you need to have a support system. Society is getting too complex and too demanding of women to be perfect, while the male role has hardly changed. I'm not unhappy because I'm not married and don't have children. I'm delighted with what I've done. It was not a sacrifice for me. In the United States, women in the space program know when they will fly and they can plan their kids. For Canadians, there are not many flights—that was part of the success in eight years. It is not as easy to plan your life when you are in the space program from another country.

The last part was the three years' training for this and all of the travelling. It wasn't waiting for the launch. [Follow Canadian astronaut] Ken Mosley and I had a phenomenal training schedule between Houston, Alaska, and Houston (places of tests training facilities)—one, frankly, that was only possible because we didn't have young children. The three years of training was the least difficult thing. We spent hours in places we never had commercial experience like the U.S. astronauts who had STS-38. [Two-year pre-training] available for their travel. These are the hidden costs. People don't realize that within the three years of training, constant travelling is the most tiring thing. I had to make my home here, home. Things seemed like Canadian courage that helped me live the stress level and enabled me to cope with the fact that I was not going home.

Now I'm going to give talks about what I have done in space and about being a Canadian on an international mission that was successful—and hopefully made the country proud. I hope the people back home will respect that as I can hope. I have a great love for the country and a commitment to be seen as a person educated in Canada who has participated at the world level. It is the scientific Olympics. I didn't mess up. I have pride in that and now I want to share the adventure that I've had.



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On the streets of Brownsville

## Tears for Tyson's fall

On Mike Tyson's boyhood block in Brooklyn's Brownsville section, dreams didn't wait. It was Anheuser-Busch that mothers had instructed their sons to emulate Tyson, who used the age of 12 lived in the tough, drug-choked New York City neighborhood. There, against the backdrop of four-story brickwork walls with barred windows, and often litigated about Mrs. Mike, who had her pack of beautiful women, cars and clothes. They all missed the way the house, at the height of his celebrity, would drive through the block as he stayed Lamborghinis, handing out food to the homeless and talking about old times. Sometimes, neighbors recalled, Tyson would walk up the crumbling marble steps to his old gruff-faced apartment building and onto the roof where the pigeon coop he built as a child resided. But last week, they were gladly chiding by Tyson's conclusion for rising an 18-year-old woman in his Indianapolis hotel room. "I don't believe it," said Sharon McMichael, 35, whose marriage with him was evidence of hard times. Affectionately remembering the young Tyson as "a bad little boy," she added: "This upset me terrible. He used to come around here still—everybody would run to him."

An Indianapolis jury convicted Tyson of one count of rape and two counts of criminal deviance conduct. The case involved Debrah Washington, a contract in the Mike Black America payment in July, who last week agreed to be identified publicly.

Scorned to set his March 27, each count carries up to 20 years in prison, although in Indiana the average sentence for such charges is between seven and 11 years. But on the block that Tyson was raised—where most of the buildings are one part of a shelter for the homeless—many residents maintained that the fight was downed was the result of a conspiracy against successful black men. "That's another person young people look up to that's totally destroyed," said James Brown, 50, a tall, hairy man who said he knew Tyson as a boy. "He's been manipulated and now he's destroyed." Lynne May, 45, agreed. "I don't think Tyson destroyed himself," May said. "He was made an example of. Now, they can show you another black man who has failed."

The former neighbors denigrated Washington's version of events, and questioned what

could have led her to his room in the middle of the night. "At two o'clock in the morning, she didn't go there for conversation," said James Gibson, a school teacher, 58, who first met Tyson 17 years ago when Gibson was a restaurant supervisor at the Anheuser-Busch Neighborhood Centre, which runs the shelter. "I met the man got a new deal." Gibson contrasted Tyson's connection with the recent sexual assault of a white teen accused of the same crime. William Kennedy Smith was jailed in Palm Beach, Fla., in December.

fighter who would become, at 20, the youngest heavyweight champion in history. Gibson described the change's roots in his old neighborhood as economic for good and bad. "All the kids gathered around him," he said, shaking his head. "Then this happened. It shattered his dreams."

Behind the next curtain of Tyson's old dwelling—number 138—seven doors cracked stars leading to a long corridor lined with closed tin doors. Griffin was scrawled on the



Outside Tyson's old Anheuser-Busch apartment building: 'He men got a new deal'

pillowing walls. Three fights up, Grace Rattley, Tyson's former next-door neighbor, who many said was like a second mother to Tyson, was too distraught to speak to a reporter outside her door. But at a telephone interview, she cried openly. "Since I lost about what happened, I got worse," said Rattley, explaining that she had been ill. "I've been worried to death about him."

Rattley said Tyson "just like grew up on the street." But she described him as a "nice kid" who preferred raising pigeons on the roof to chasing girls. "Selling," she pleaded. "If there's any that I could do if you hear from him, tell him to please call me." No matter what the party said, added Gibson, "He's a good guy who got a bad rap. We're all rooting for him. He'll always have a home here."

FAMULA NEWKIRK is Brooklyn

## BOOKS

## Dr. Feel-Good

An anthropologist promotes pleasure

## THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE

By Lionel Tiger

(Little Brown, 336 pages, \$26.95)

Lionel Tiger says that his decision with pleasure began decades ago in his native Montreal, on a night when he stood naked in his coach's bathtub. The adolescent Tiger was masturbating. After his changes were atop—and well below the children's parents were expected to return—he resolved to try his best at masturbation for the first time. On that night, Tiger

and *Optimism: The Biology of Hope*, Tiger argues that mankind's long, cave-dwelling prehistory essentially shaped human nature. Whatever delights modern humans, he believes, is evidence of genetically encoded "behaviors, emotions, social patterns and patterns of taste that served us well during our evolutionary history." Far from being a trivial pastime, pleasure is in fact an "evolutionary enrichment."

Noting that early humans lived for millions of years as hunter-gatherers, Tiger claims that "the modern period which we live in has no



Pleasure: enjoying a restaurant meal insights into the joys of food, power and sex

writes in his occasionally bombastic new book, "Unearthed myself during an act of theft from a glossy culture that embelghed pleasure." Ever since then, he continues, "the question of who has a right to pleasure and how much and why" has haunted him. In *The Pleasure of Pleasure*, Tiger, an anthropologist professor at New Jersey's Rutgers University, claims that enjoyment is a fundamental human right. "It should be treated with full seriousness in political and economic as well as psychological terms," he insists, "but it isn't."

In a book that is by turns thought-provoking and prurient, Tiger argues that "the sexual is at least as important as the stick." He examines how and why human beings derive pleasure from activities as diverse as eating, having sex and watching political news. As in some of his previous books, which include *Men in Groups*

significant and fundamental impact on what we eat." Substances and activities that were vital to primitive humanity's survival seemed the things that later-day humans crave. Why do so many people have a sweet tooth? Tiger says that hunter-gatherers learned from bitter—and even fatal—experience that consuming sugar, starchy food was dangerous. Why do people prefer hot meals to cold ones? Believe the discovery of fire, it was safer to eat a freshly killed animal while it retained its body heat than to let the meat cool and spoil.

In one of *The Pursuit of Pleasure*'s most absorbing sections, Tiger suggests that modern humanity's tendency to gluttony, alcoholism and other addictions may have originated in the distant, hunter-gatherer past. "We evolved to live in environments in which sobriety was more common than overindulgence," he



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### BOOKS

writes. For that reason, Tiger claims that the legalization of currently illegal drugs would be a mistake. "The human sexual pleasure system is too evil, too first and too addictive," he says. "It doesn't make sense to subject it to any more perils. Mandating that it has already."

The thrill that he first experienced many years ago in his cousin's bathtub, however, turned Tiger into a fan of sexual repression. "The sexual space is the most physically pleasurable human event," he writes, noting elsewhere that sex is "always complicated, always interesting, always an issue." But much of the author's writing on the subject mainly states the obvious: people enjoy sex, and the availability of effective contraception has changed the relationship between pleasure and consequence.

A grocer's son who claims that he selects meals "the way many women people select accessories," Tiger offers more poignant insights into the joys of food. Describing the mouth as "the recipient of a vital sensual diplomacy," he adds that "no other organs, not even the genitals, are the subject of such concentrated and varied attention, experimentation, etiquette and control." He also points out that humanity's pronounced preference for eating with others may harken back to the cave-dwelling days, when survival depended on the sharing of collectively gathered food.

Unlike food and sex, power is not a low-order imperative—but many people crave it and seek it. "Powerful people enjoy it when they are able to define and restrict the pleasures of others," Tiger observes. But beyond that, he cites research indicating that there are apparent physiological limits for the pleasure of power. Experiments conducted on monkeys at the University of California in Los Angeles revealed that the dominant male in a group possessed a sharply higher concentration of a substance called serotonin in his bloodstream than the subordinates. In conjunction with other chemicals in the body, serotonin seems to promote moderate blood pressure and general good health. When scientists removed the dominant male from the group, another leader emerged—and the newly dominant male's serotonin level soared. It seems that power lurks in a drug. "The body and the body politic, the Constitution and the constitution," Tiger writes, "are linked in a complex but necessarily knowable way."

As unashamedly informal writer, Tiger excels at explaining scientific findings to the lay reader. But topics—such as in the sublimity of one section, "That Old Gang Rape of Mine"—his self-conscious witicism are unfunny and tiresomely pedantic. As well, some of his personal anecdotes would be better left unsaid. ("My own adult dog yields an appealing outline itself when he wakes up?") Still, Tiger makes a strong case for taking pleasure more seriously for those who are fortunate enough to live in relative comfort, life in a harem—and it would be a shame to go away hungry.

PAMELA YOUNG



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**Maclean's**  
THE WELL-INFORMED CHOICE

Edmonton playwright Brad Fraser is creating controversy in Calgary with his new play, *The Ugly Man*. Some critics have complained that the 93-minute drama, which contains graphic scenes of bondage and gruesome murder, is too violent. But the 33-year-old Fraser, whose last play, *Undiscovered Human Remains* and the *True Nature of Love*, was also contentious, noted that *The Ugly Man* is still a hit with Calgary audiences. Declared the playwright: "At least it's selling seats."

Alleanza Masselli, grandfather of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, appears to be taking his heritage seriously. Last week, the 39-year-old doctor, who is also a nurse of various orders, was in Rome, accompanied by his wife, to support the candidacy of a neo-fascist in Italy's elections in April. The former statistician said that although the never knew his notorious grandfather, who was executed in 1945, she identifies with his politics. "I feel very close to him," she said. "I'm quite sure that we would have been good friends."

**L**et's see, Irish-born Josephine Hart's novel *Damages*, became a blockbuster international best-seller. Now, acclaimed French director **Louis Malle** has started shooting a screen adaptation in London starring Oscar-winner **Jessica Hahn** (she told *MovieLine's* Oscar: "I consider myself terribly lucky about the way things have turned out.") But she noted that it took her almost five years to finally write *Damages*, a dark story about a respected English politician who starts a doomed love affair with his son's girlfriend. Along the way, Hart said, that she often counted on the support of her friends, including the best-selling British novelist **Julia Murdoch** (she 47-year-old Hart, who has just completed *My Sister Sam*, said she admires Murdoch's "strong, balanced, adventurous mind"). Murdoch's *Sarah's Secret Heart* is the story of one legal maverick using wit to win, who kept saying, "You can do it!" She added, "It was absolutely wonderful."

*Harry: I consider myself lucky.*



Basketball ace Earvin (Magic) Johnson says that he is considering a professional comeback after his most valuable player performance during the recent NBA All-Star Game in Orlando, Fla. But the 33-year-old star, who officially retired a November after revealing that he is HIV-positive, says that he wants to examine how well his health holds up after he plays for the American basketball team at next summer's Olympic Games in Barcelona. And his doctors say that a full NBA season may be too stressful. Declared Johnson: "I'm going to take my time before making any decisions."



Canadian rock star Bryan Adams is receiving decidedly mixed reviews on the Australian leg of his world tour. Music critic Kathy McCabe of Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* Mirror lavishly praised the 32-year-old rocker for his pared-down, no-frills style. But Jane Howard of The Australian was an outlier, underpressed. "As Adams croons I need Somebody," she wrote, "all I need is another coffee."

MAY 1990 54

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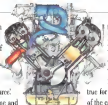


# If Just A Few Of The New Pants That Went Into Lexus Are Impressive Here, Imagine What They're Like On The Road.

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# Heavy-metal hilarity

Mike Myers takes road hockey to Hollywood

Mike Myers had wanted the poloist at Paramount Pictures that he is not at his best in the evening. His first interview of the day was set for the understanding hour of 10:30 a.m. Myers finally descended in full on hour late, profusely apologetic. Dressed in dark jeans and a baggy grey sweater, he looked a little Murray-era. As a cast member of rick's *Saturday Night Live*, the Toronto-born comedian has a neighborhood grant to the energy of the midnight hour. "I couldn't sleep last night," he said, sitting down over coffee and yogurt. "So I drove around and ended up at City Hall watching somebody shoot a movie. It turned out to be Don Sherbo. I couldn't believe it—here's one of my heroes." Myers was too shy to introduce himself to Sherbo, director of the Canadian classic *Glen/Glen* (1978). At 28, Myers is a star. But like the character he plays in his new movie, *Wayne's World*, part of him is still the star-struck kid from the suburbs.

On *Saturday Night Live*, Myers is most famous for playing a heavy metal, ironic named Wayne, who looks a suburban Chicago public-access cable TV show from his parents' room with his co-host, Garth (Dana Carvey). Myers has now parlayed that surreal routine into a Hollywood feature. *Wayne's World* is a goofy, post-ironic comedy, a movie so wildly sophisticated that its market hole seems it, if you know its charm. Parodying suburban rock culture without a shred of pretension, *Wayne's World* is as accessible as a double-chocolate doughnut—with as much silliness.

*Saturday Night Live* sketch into a full-length feature is a jaw-dropper. In the case of the non-legendary MTV series, Dave Thomas and Rick Moranis created a small-screen sensation in the McKenna brothers, hair-quizzing Canadian jokers who played a party through a talk show called *Great White Way*. *Wayne's World* (1986), the movie based on the routine, failed to take off.

With *Saturday Night Live*'s more than 12 million viewers across North America, however, *Wayne's World* has broader appeal. The film has created a variety of popular catchphrases, including "No!" (to quote a statement after the fact) and "Moosekies my friend of my boy!" (to illustrate improbability). And *Wayne's World* has become a fashionable guest spot for celebrities. Madonna actually showed up on the show one time. But the film and Wayne's appearance as a furry, hairy creature that ended with a head of hairy kissing. Myers was nervous at first, he recalled. "I had my screen less error in with Madonna's right, then pillar of

serenity. I told her, 'I want to be honest with you. I don't know what to do.' To demonstrate, she grabbed my hand and gave it a very tight grip. Then she said, 'Put your mouth on my mouth and pretend we're having a really good time—and if you slip me the tongue, I'll kill you.' " Added Myers. "It was an out-of-body experience."

In person, the comedian reveals more than a

writer-producer. Myers has shown his versatility with such memorable characters as Middle-Aged Man (a jettied supermodel) and a pretentious German movie critic who hosts a talk show called *Spinekicks*.

But Myers remains his most popular incarnation. And *Saturday Night Live*'s Toronto-born executive producer, Lorne Michaels, decided to make *Wayne's World* the first of several movies that he was contracted to produce for Paramount. Its director is American film-maker Penelope Spheeris, best known for making rock documentaries.

*Wayne's World* takes Myers and Garth out of the basement. Their favorite band is Stan Mikita's Ducks, which has a revolving hockey player in the red. And they play road hockey in the suburbs. The movie's plot involves a silly TV executive, played by an erstwhile Rob Lowe, who tries to turn their cable show into commercial ventures sponsored by a value-added network. He also tries to viral



Myers (left), Carvey, Dana Carvey and 'babe-fests'

best of Myers' multi-ethnic characters. Raised in the Toronto suburb of Scarborough, Myers grew up with a generation of adolescent misfits, devotees of doughnut shops and wood-paneled basements. The younger of three sons born to Eric Myers, an insurance salesperson, and his wife, Alice, a housewife, he made his acting debut in a TV commercial when he was 8—Globe Radio played his mother. He recalls that in 1973, when he was 13, he watched *Saturday Night Live*'s first broadcast and thought, "God, I would love to be on this show."

Myers joined *Toronto's Second City* comedy troupe in 1982, one day after graduating from high school. Then, after working with Chicago's Second City troupe, at 26 he became *Saturday Night Live*'s youngest cast member

Myers' new girlfriend, a rock singer named Cassandra (Tia Carrere).

The movie sports party-animal edges with lewding authenticity. On the issue of smoking and romance, Wayne advises: "If you blow smoke and the other guy, he's yours. But if you spit and the other guy, it's not yours." Myers' World, with all its talk of "mega-babes" and "babe-fests," is obviously playful, it does indulge in a sense of social complicity. But it is hard to dislike a movie that has an epitaph as the characters pre-empt the critics by saying, "I hope you didn't think it was!" And it is hard to dislike a movie star who has brought rock hockey to Hollywood.

BRAND D. JOHNSON



Pragas youths: 'young enough to contemplate an entire lifetime in a new world'

## BOOKS

# The lost generation

Eastern Europe's teens are haunted by the past

Facing Freedom: The Children of Eastern Europe

By Alison Gonsky  
(Farrar, 285 pages, \$22.95)

History and the occult are two subjects that fascinate Gonsky, a 36-year-old Russian living in St. Petersburg. He says that he can use one to understand the other—that sports connected during a season would tell the truth about things that happened in the past. After all, because sports belong to the realm of the dead, argues Gonsky, there would be "no reason for them to give me false information." Born at a time when his country shrouded its past in secrets and lies, Sasha is coming of age in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse. Little in 1995 and early in 1996, as Sasha's parents, Alana Gonsky, answered Sasha and 15 other teenagers in Russia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, eastern Germany and Latvia. The result is *Facing Freedom: The Children of Eastern Europe*. Living and forthright, it presents some frank and honest perspectives on what Gonsky calls "the most extraordinary political story of our time."

Gonsky writes that the choice to interview teenagers, because they are "old enough to recall life before and after the Communist road started crumble, and young enough to contemplate almost an entire lifetime in a new world." Over a seven-month visit, she spoke with a remarkable assortment of teens, including a

Czechoslovakian merchant, a Latvian nationalist and a girl from eastern Berlin who belongs to a racist club. Gonsky divides the book into five sections each focusing on a particular country and devoted primarily to three or four teenagers' descriptions of their lives.

For the most part, the young people Gonsky interviewed grew up scared to Communist oppression. A Protestant church official's son, 20-year-old Gonsky, who protests her religious activities, Gonsky gives only brief, neutral, notes that her mother, Daria, has been under surveillance by the secret police for 18 years. "We were checked all the time, day and night, and we learned to live with it," he said matter-of-factly. Argentina, a 16-year-old nursing student at Warsaw, recalls that when her father began with his history lessons, he would often say, "This is the truth, but here's what you have to write." Many youths found ways to reach the system. Attendance at an organization called the Young Pioneers was compulsory in much of Eastern Europe, as was wearing the red scarf that signified membership. Gonsky, a 16-year-old Latvian, wears a red scarf with the camera ripped off and a cigarette butt inside in the middle.

Although the youths' comments on communism generally center with Western preoccupations, the widespread despair that the teenagers feel under the new regimes is often a stark reality. A 16-year-old Latvian who joined her homeland's ultimately successful independence movement, is one of the few voices of

optimism in the book. "I think this is our happiest time," she said. In eastern Germany, meanwhile, the euphoria that engulfed the west the 1989 dismantling of the Berlin Wall has given way to rising prices, factory closings and mounting social tensions. "I don't know how to believe in western Berlin because they're not as good as they're better," said another Berliner, Korte, 15. "I feel stupid because I'm not dressed like them." She and her friend Saba talk about taking part in violent attacks against T-shirts with their standard design. For their group, fighting is merely something to do—activity as familiar as looting around the mall in many Western teenagers.

Gonsky was in the right place at the right time to witness history in the making in Europe, the Latvian capital. She went there in January, 1992, right before the fall of the Soviet Union. Gonsky's accounts of such experiences are gripping.

But perhaps her wisest decision in *Facing Freedom* was to let the teenagers do most of the talking. No outsider can get at the contradictions and complexities of Eastern European life as effectively as those who are living it. Still, Gonsky, 16, a self-declared atheist living in Prague, "Naturally don't know what they want to happen. They know they want to abolish the institution of the state, but they have no idea how it could be made better after that." Like many teenagers in *Facing Freedom*, Gonsky knows that his country is better—but cannot imagine how to fix it.

PAMELA YOUNG

## Maclean's

BEST-SELLER LIST

### FICTION

- 1 *Gillis and Solow*, Booth (2)
- 2 *William Tell*, David (2)
- 3 *The Republic of Love*, Shale (2)
- 4 *Private Eyes*, Kellerman (4)
- 5 *Murder & Walking Spins*, Davis (1)
- 6 *King Sam*, Cronin
- 7 *Man, Sater (3)*
- 8 *Superman*, Williams (2)
- 9 *The Road to Nowhere*, Laskin
- 10 *Howland*, Myers (3)

### NONFICTION

- 1 *Reagan: From White House*, Siskin (1)
- 2 *Bookish*, Polak (2)
- 3 *The New Canada*, Manning (3)
- 4 *The Salvage of Canada*, Nevill (3)
- 5 *Harmony Babylon*, Sklar (and David)
- 6 *The Best Investment*, Amos (3)
- 7 *Waters on the West Side*, K. & B. (3)
- 8 *Peopled*, Bantam, Pollock (4)
- 9 *Manhood*, Bantam, Pollock (4)
- 10 *Top Secret*, Manning (3)

(1) Previews last week

Compiled by Susan Roberts





## The readers talk back—with a bite

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

**T**he essence of the back page, as we know, is baroque. All dissenters are treated with tender care. Falsely-accused enemies roam no more. Falsely-accused, the reigning philosophy is to turn the other cheek. Gentils in our hero: The proprietor is not a fighter, he's a loser. He lives off readers. They deserve their day in the sun.

Kevin Beatty of Calgary writes: "Writing to you daily to reinforce my view is that it will be a big waste of time in reading your column. Thankfully, over the years I have not subjected myself to that very crime, but I did struggle into reading your latest column and because I do have some time to waste, I am sending you my comments on it. I forgive me if my comments appear rude and obnoxious, but if they seem that way it is because I am gathering up writing style after yours. I won't, however, be able to reproduce your magnificence or ignorance. That will remain your own personal province."

"I tried to envision what kind of patient undertake a crucially enjoy reading your column (there must be some). I think that your own hatred of America stems from your understanding that only in Canada it is possible to master an audience for your cheap opinions. Sometimes when I have more time, I may find probably won't write you a more explicit and detailed account of the relevance of the liberal socialist ideology that you help perpetuate (not that it will help). In closing, let me think you'll allow me to get off my chest the fact that I think you are a total idiot."

R. Zanol writes from Toronto: "Typical weak-English-speaking lemmings. No French on back, yet their agenda belongs! The firms should stop out these zombies."

Jim Galloway writes: "I am really surprised that you don't see the points about Bill Clinton. The point seems to me to be that if the story is true about his infidelity, Mr. Clinton is a liar and a sneak. He is a danger to his wife and to his heirs. Politicians should be honest and have a higher regard for their fellow men, or women in this case, than he has shown. Maybe you think he is cute or naive. I don't. And why do



you order to be lower than him/her? I guess that must make her a hundo. You, too?"

Frank E. Heard of St. Catharines, Ont., writes: "Well, what else is new? As usual, another scumbag, waiting for the next revolution. Since you defend them so much, why bother putting your position to paper? Talk about gossip columns! You are among the worst! You mention the Fleet Street backs and their chicks. Take a look in the mirror. Feds, and are who men's back. It's damned easy to take shots at people who can't respond, isn't it? But then that's your style, as we well know."

"We are all aware that you are a confirmed Rivhater. Are there any of them you have ever enjoyed meeting? I doubt it. By the way, I am not a Dink or a monarchist. Just a guy who can't stand the crap you get paid to write! For God's sake, clean up your act!"

Narel Pinsky of Colchester, Ont., writes: "With regard to your recently repugnant as-

saults on Chretien's accentuation and syntax, I have read your articles for several years, reading all the time that you are attempting to be a linguistic scumbag, yet sometimes have the feeling that the more-often-than-not you are doing through all of it very brightly."

"Would your French be less faulty than Chretien's English? Descent on, any language is merely a code that carries the intended message. It is the thought that predominates, not the exactitude of the code. You proved this time beyond any doubt that you are a prissy, out-picking barbarian par excellence."

Elwood Fletcher writes from London, Ont.: "Having struggled through your numerous footnotes, *parvula cibula* (or *Pasta Masing*, whichever think, *cardulicus* crates and *ansa helena*), I gather that you feel utter contempt for all who embrace the prospect of Quebec's independence. You courage of such indecorous nastiness in the following categories: 'Bastards, Lash-balls or quoniam'; such denizens as have postgraduate degrees and hold tenure on a university staff you classify as 'uneducated fools'."

"In all this verbiage distillate and your condemnation of the crumb, the gutter and the tangential, you find no shame as the light, in brief, what, from the depths of your great wisdom, is the solution to this problem?"

J. R. Reid writes from Medicine Hat, Alta.: "You deserve his nothing to worry about as long as there are journalists to caricature their disquisitions with low facts and little logic, but plenty of irrelevant and irrelevant argument, not to mention liberal use of the contraband. If I'm as much a fan of Cardulicus (which I am), the Cardulicus school I think even U of C would deserve better in the national press than they got from you."

"Mr. Logic went the way of Grouse and Rhinoceros years ago and is now considered 'dead'."

Bob Ouchette of Garden Hill, Ont., writes: "Are we scums, Fotheringham? You are the master of Canadian nonsense. If you have any doubt, read my number of your articles. Your characters put-downs are legendary. I consider you to be one of the leaders of the great Canadian descent. Let's see how long we can be."

"Perhaps you could uncover some positive articles you've written about Canada and Canadians. I enjoy your considerable talent and wit; however, I find your constant disinformation and misstatements difficult to rise. Can you find something good about us. Well, I guess that wouldn't be all too painful, eh?"



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